

The new Homeshare Practice Guide is launched

The Government's vision and strategy for adult health and social care have a central focus on putting the individual at the heart of community and service delivery and goes much further towards empowering individuals than has ever happened before.

Homeshare is well established as a model of support and housing in several countries around the world and seems an ideal fit with this current government strategy. Homeshare does not, however, fit neatly into the "care" and "housing" pigeon holes into which local commissioners and funding bodies usually place services. This factor has acted as a barrier to the development and the spread of the Homeshare model.

The Department of Health recognised the potential of Homeshare in England and has welcomed the model as a way of supporting and empowering people to live independent lives. In 2005 they sponsored a project, through the Home Office funded Change Up Programme to explore the potential of the Homeshare model as an additional and complementary option for meeting the support needs of individuals, alongside more formal care service provision in England. The main outcome this project was the Homeshare Practice Guide launched in 2006 which brought

together practice from Homeshare projects across the world. It provided information for people commissioning and/or co-ordinating Homeshare projects anywhere in England and outlined the key steps essential for an effective Homeshare Programme. Additional sections of the Practice Guide covering the topics of Funding a Homeshare Programme and Legislation and Homeshare were added in 2007.

Since 2006 NAAPS has been working in partnership with two local authorities, West Sussex and Oxfordshire, to establish two new Homeshare programmes with the aim of piloting the Practice Guide and testing out the Homeshare model. The pilot programmes have been academically evaluated by Jane Coffey from Oxford Brookes University and the results of this study will be published late 2009.

NAAPS has also been instrumental in bringing together the Coordinators of several Homeshare programmes as a Homeshare Association.

Lessons learned from the two pilot programmes and the experiences of Association members have informed the revised edition of the Homeshare Practice Guide 2009 which will be available from the NAAPS website www.homeshare.org.uk from the 20th December 2009.

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Join the NAAPS Homeshare Association

In the last edition of Homeshare News we talked about the Homeshare Association. The Association is aimed at anyone who is actively involved in Homeshare (or at least planning to be). The Association costs £75 a year to join and membership brings access to all sorts of information sheets, advice and guidance that NAAPS has developed (and continues to do so) through the two pilot projects. The Association is also the place where people can get help and advice on Homeshare issues and be put in contact with people who are already involved with Homeshare. The Association meets regularly.

If you would like to find out more about the Homeshare Association contact Angela Catley at angela@naaps.org.uk.

Letter from Sian

I am writing this on the day after our hugely successful UK conference which was held this year at the Hyatt Hotel in Birmingham over two days. There was something for everyone at this year's conference with a really wide range of fascinating (and occasionally controversial!) speakers and workshops – but the highlight for me was the presentation by Will Bradley who spoke about his experiences living in a hostel and then with a Shared Lives Carer before finally moving into his own house (owned by a small community services provider!) with support from a Shared Lives kinship Carer. Will is a brilliant and entertaining speaker (not to be missed if he comes your way!) and his story really shows how individual and flexible Shared Lives is and how Shared Lives families provide great outcomes for the people that they support. Will has produced a DVD about his story, which can be bought (only £15!) from the NAAPS office. As well as speakers and workshops the conference provides a great opportunity to meet old and new friends and to be with people who share the same challenges and passions – if you haven't been before then do think about coming along next time. There are some great party animals among our members!

And talking of stories ...Personal stories are a really powerful way of showing how fabulous Shared Lives and other small community services can be. I've been collecting stories about people supported through Shared Lives, Homeshare and small community services for a few

months now. Some of you have already sent me some great stories (thank you!) but I need more so please think about writing down just one story from the many you will have and sending it to me. People's names and details should be changed so they can't be identified but it is still a good idea to get permission from people for their story to be used. I've already been able to use the stories that I have in presentations and workshops at conferences and in work with the Association of Directors of Social Services and the Social Care Institute of Excellence to identify really good personalised services.

This autumn newsletter contains some important news about the new NAAPS social enterprise. The details of why and how this is being set up and what it is going to do can be found in the article and so I won't repeat all that here. I did however want to tell you myself about the way in which the new enterprise is going to affect me. The Board of Trustees, at the request of the Board of Directors of the new social enterprise, have decided to second me to set up and run the new enterprise for two years. That means that I will leave my post as Chief Executive of NAAPS and move across to run the new social enterprise sometime early in 2010. The Board will recruit someone to the post of Chief Executive of NAAPS for the two years of my secondment and are asking for applications from NAAPS members and NAAPS staff. The trustees hope to have made an appointment by mid December and we will let you



know who is going to take over from me as soon as possible after that. .

I have been involved in NAAPS since 1992 and those of you that know me will realise how difficult I have found it to decide whether or not to accept the secondment. The future of NAAPS is tied up however in the success of our new social enterprise – and in the early stages the social enterprise will need all my skills, knowledge, experience and contacts to be successful and generate the money that we need to secure NAAPS' future. In the end then I realised that I could serve NAAPS and its members best by accepting the secondment and will move across early in the New Year. I'm so grateful for all the support that you've given me over the years that I've worked for NAAPS. I will be working very closely with the new .NAAPS Chief Executive and will be able to stay in touch through him/her as well as through some of the services that we will be offering through our new company But I'm going to miss you all hugely!

Sian Lockwood
Chief Executive

One of Somerset's best kept secrets

Summer has come to an end and the dark nights will soon be upon us. However, here in Somerset we have something more exciting than bonfire night to look forward to! It will soon be Carnival Time! Carnival is one of the best kept secrets in this area and I had never heard of it until I moved here 4½ years ago.



Throughout the year various Carnival clubs raise money and build the most amazing array of floats you have ever seen. These are jealously guarded in case other clubs find out what their theme is. The process involves people of all ages from 8 to 80.

However, these are not your idea of normal floats, they are absolutely enormous and covered in thousands of bright lights that revolve and rotate in time to music that is played very loudly. Many people dressed in fantastic costumes dance and gyrate on the floats or perform "tableaux" in which they have to stay perfectly still.

They are accompanied by "masqueraders" who are dressed as anything from fairies to darleks, and walk and dance between the floats. Early in November Carnival week

commences and a procession takes place in a Mendip town on successive nights. There are so many floats that the parade takes about 1½ hours to pass each vantage point.

The floats are judged on various criteria and the overall winner selected at the end of the Carnival season. A large amount of money is collected for charity each year by spectators throwing coins into receptacles that travel amongst the procession.

Interest in our Homeshare Scheme continues and enquiries have been received not only from the Mendip and North East Somerset areas but across the whole of Somerset and beyond. I have also been contacted by organisations and councils in other parts of the South of England because they are interested in setting up a Homeshare Scheme in their area. These include Devon and Cornwall, Bournemouth and Hampshire.

I have been busy contacting health professionals, housing associations, CIPs and CABs etc. and reminding them about our Homeshare scheme. It is encouraging that several have come back to me with invitations to attend their meetings and talk about Homeshare.

A flurry of enquiries have recently been received regarding Homeshare and I have met with prospective Householders and Homesharers. A couple of these look as though they may have the possibility of making a match.



My Homeshare activities have resulted in far more far reaching benefits than meeting and trying to match Householders and Homesharers. I'm sure that all Care & Repair employees have met and helped our clients in other ways that have successfully made an improvement in their lifestyle.

Recently I have met a lady in her 60s who I discovered was living in very reduced circumstances compared to her previous life style. Through no fault of her own she is homeless and has a very small income. I discovered that she is a retired State Registered Nurse and after some research found a charity called Nurseaid that gives assistance to nurses that are in financial difficulties. Together we completed an application to the charity for some funding and recently heard that she had been made a pledge of £700 towards the purchase of a vehicle and a regular grant of £30 per week.

A lady who wished to be a Householder could not use the upper storey of her home because she could not walk up the stairs and was confined to living downstairs. I was able to give her information regarding our stair lift service and she arranged to have a stair lift fitted to enable her to gain access to upstairs bedrooms.

If you are interested in Homeshare or know someone who maybe please contact:

Sue Galpin on 01749 341832 or sue@mendipcareandrepair.co.uk

HOMESHARE WEST SUSSEX

It has been a busy summer once again, making sure the application process runs as smoothly and quickly as possible for all of the new householders and homesharers, and then thinking about the possible matches that could be made. There have been several introductions over the summer, some going onto trial homeshare matches, and others deciding that the situation is not quite right. And once as again, as the winter nights draw in, we have seen an increased rate of enquiries, so hopefully some more matches can be made this winter!

Gill has been attending various events organised by ICIS and Action

in Rural Sussex to name a few, to promote the service to other professionals and members of the public throughout the county. As well as producing many articles and adverts, this all helps to keep the profile of Homeshare out there in the community.

We are also eagerly anticipating the evaluation of the Homeshare report that Oxford Brookes University are due to publish this Christmas time. Many of the Homesharers and Householders in West Sussex took part in this process, and we hope that it will draw out lots of useful information that can be used when thinking about the future of

Homeshare in West Sussex. West Sussex County Council has also recently done a piece of work to compliment the report, so that we have some information for West Sussex specifically, which I would like to thank everyone again, who took part in this. I'm sure we all know the wonderful benefits people can get from doing Homeshare, but for the purpose of commissioning the service in the future we need to show we are a cost effective service for the community.

Dawn Blake

Co-ordinator West Sussex

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HOMESHARE OXFORDSHIRE

Kamini joins the team

I joined Victoria Harwood, the Homeshare Co-ordinator in July 2009. I am engaged in Marketing and Administration of the Homeshare scheme.

I was born in Kenya and came to this country when I was only two years old, so my memory of the birthplace is non-existent. I was brought up and educated in Yorkshire. I am married with two children and have lived in Abingdon for 23 years. I chose to work part time since the arrival of my son in 1989 and have worked for Oxfordshire CC's Education Department for the last eight years. I have increased my hours, by taking on this post with the Homeshare scheme where I work on Fridays.

I am really enjoying this area of work as it allows me to meet many people. I feel the Homeshare scheme is a very noble scheme as it positively benefits all those who take

part in it – the people with the home and needing help and people in need of accommodation. The real strength of the scheme stems from the fact that it gives independence, dignity and support to all the parties involved. Although the scheme is in its pilot stage at present, we are getting a very positive response from the people and general public.

Come to the Coffee Morning

To promote the Homeshare scheme we are holding a Coffee Morning at West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road, Oxford, OX2 0BT on Friday 4th December 2009 from 10.00-12.00. It will be a morning to find out more about scheme, ask questions, share ideas and listen to people's experiences. We look forward to meeting you with your family and friends!

Kamini Mistry

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Excellent news

Some other great news from the Oxfordshire Homeshare Programme is that we have been successful in securing a further year's funding from Oxfordshire County Council. We now have funding until March 2011 which is really positive for the people of Oxfordshire.

Victoria Harwood

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The new NAAPS Social Enterprise

Why have we decided to set up a Social Enterprise?

The Board of Trustees for NAAPS UK has been concerned for some time that our charity is far too dependent on grants from central government (*60% of our income in 2008 came from the Department of Health*) This makes planning difficult as grants are time limited and tend to be given for innovative projects rather than to support the core costs of running the organisation and providing services to members. The situation has become much more difficult with the recent financial crisis. The Department of Health is scaling back radically its grants programme and has warned charities like ours that it will be much more difficult to get grant funding from them in the future.

The Board had agreed a financial strategy last year which it had been hoped would allow NAAPS to take forward its aims and objectives and generate the income that it needs to meet its core costs in order to make sure that NAAPS continues to have enough money to represent and support its members properly. This was based on extending membership to new groups of providers – principally small community services (SCS) providers but also Homeshare programmes. The numbers of SCS members are growing but more slowly than the

Board had hoped and the income that NAAPS is receiving from these new members is not going to be enough to make up for the loss in grant income over the next few years.

A new source of income that would solve the problem of NAAPS' long term funding could come from local authorities, who are increasingly asking NAAPS to help them set up new Shared Lives Schemes, to develop their existing Schemes and to stimulate and support the development of small community services and of Homeshare, However NAAPS UK is a charity and is not allowed to 'trade' with local authorities in this way.

Therefore, the Board, with advice from lawyers who specialise in charities, has decided to set up a 'trading arm' – a social enterprise – which will enable us to take forward our aims (promoting the effective provision of accommodation, care and support for vulnerable adults within very small-scale family and community settings) by working directly to provide local authorities and other organisations with consultancy support and services. This is a common approach for charities that wish to trade and generate further income, without affecting their status as a charity.

How will the Social Enterprise be set up and managed?

The Social Enterprise is a separate company but is wholly owned by NAAPS UK. It is managed by a Board of Directors consisting principally of NAAPS Trustees and with an independent Chair with good experience of making a business work. The Enterprise has a clear remit to promote the aims of NAAPS through selling consultancy and other services and to generate income that will fund NAAPS services to its members.

The NAAPS Enterprise has been able to obtain funding from Future Builders (an organisation set up by government to support social enterprise). That funding will cover the cost of setting up and staffing the organisation until it is able to generate the income that it needs to cover its own costs and make a surplus for NAAPS.

The NAAPS Enterprise will have its own Chief Executive who obviously must have the interests of NAAPS at heart, really understand about Shared Lives and Small Community Services and have good links with local authorities and central government. For these reasons the new Board of Directors of NAAPS Enterprises has asked NAAPS UK to consider seconding Sian Lockwood to act as Chief Executive of the new trading arm for two years. The Board of Trustees of NAAPS UK considered this request at its meeting on 13 October and has agreed to Sian's secondment. She will move across to head up NAAPS Enterprises for a two year period beginning early in 2010.

What will the NAAPS Enterprise Do?

The NAAPS Social Enterprise aims to provide real choice for people who need support and services by ensuring that very small care services delivered by individuals and families in local communities can develop and thrive.

It is going to do this by providing:

- A** Consultancy and outsourcing services to local authorities and other organisations. An outsourced service is one which NAAPS runs on behalf of the local authority
(much as we do our pilot projects at the moment)

The focus of consultancy and outsourcing services over the next five years will be:

- Establishing micro social care support agencies across England and Scotland
- Establishing new Shared Lives Schemes and supporting the development and expansion of existing Schemes to ensure a wide range of effective Shared Lives services to adults needing support across the UK
- B** An accreditation service for micro social care support agencies and Shared Lives Schemes *(which will allow agencies and Schemes to demonstrate to local authorities that they are providing an extremely high quality service)*
- C** Products and services *(such as training, seminars and publications)* for Shared Lives Schemes, micro social care support agencies and micro providers to help them meet standards and achieve financial sustainability.

What will happen to NAAPS when Sian moves across to head up the new NAAPS Enterprise?

Sian's secondment will leave the position of Chief Executive of NAAPS UK vacant and the Board is seeking to appoint someone to fill that post for the two years when Sian is working for the social enterprise..We have asked for applications from NAAPS members and from the NAAPS staff team. Interviews for the post will have been held during the second week

of December and we will let members know as soon as the Board has made an appointment.

This is a very significant development but one that the Board believes will be extremely positive for both NAAPS UK and for Sian herself, helping to ensure the success of the social enterprise and therefore the continued stability and growth of our charity in the future.'

Discussing key issues

- Homeshare Association meetings

Members of the NAAPS Homeshare Association have been meeting together for a couple of years and historically the time was used to allow Co-ordinators to share ideas and experiences and gain personal support from their peers.

Meetings were valued for their informality but sometimes left people feeling that they had given a whole day of their valuable work time with very little of substance to show for it.

Earlier this year we realised that that there was real potential to get more from the meetings. We took the decision to continue with the informal peer sharing but to only do this for an hour at the beginning of each session. For the rest of the meeting we decided to introduce a theme or topic to each session led by an 'expert facilitator'. To date we have held two of these themed sessions with a third session planned for later in the year (*by the time you read this it will probably have taken place*).

Homeshare, risk and safeguarding

The first session was facilitated by Annie Stephenson, Head of Older People's services at the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) and formerly Senior Policy Advisor at Help the Aged. Annie shared information about the national policy context within which Homeshare operates. This included information about attitudes and policy relating to older people; issues around prevention of abuse and adult protection; development work around dignity and the recently published Dementia Strategy.

Sian Lockwood talked about the need to get a good balance between minimising the risks that people take

with freedom to make their own decisions and to live their own life. It is essential that all decisions are taken from an informed perspective and that HS has a professional approach if it is to develop and grow as a model. Any mistake made by one programme which leads to negative media attention could adversely affect the reputation of all HS programmes and the HS "brand" across the world. We all have a responsibility to make sure that this does not happen.

The meeting allowed Co-ordinators to share examples of participants who were particularly at risk and the lessons had been learned as result.

These included a vulnerable Householder who had panic attacks, a Householder who lacked mental capacity, a Householder whose son was pushing him into Homeshare against his will and a Householder who complained she was not getting the support she was entitled to when this was untrue.

The meeting recognised that Homeshare already has a large number of systems in place to minimise risk and safeguard participants. We just need to be aware of these and be able to talk about them with confidence when representing Homeshare to potential participants and other people.

Mental Capacity and the Mental Capacity Act



The NAAPS UK Board OFFICERS

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The second session was facilitated by David Ellis, Principal Adviser, Adult Services at SCIE and formally from the Department of Health. David outlined the background to the Mental Capacity Act which runs alongside the new Mental Health Act and distinguishes between mental health issues and mental capacity issues. The purpose of the Act is to promote and safeguard decision making and provides legal framework for when capacity is lacking or when it is lost in the future.

Discussions took place about mental capacity and Homeshare and Co-ordinators shared examples of issues they had encountered including a Householder with advanced dementia and another

who appeared to lack capacity but was adamant they could enter into a Homeshare arrangement. Issues of confidentiality and information sharing between the Co-ordinator and the family/friends of the Householder who has capacity issues were also discussed as was the signing of a Homeshare Agreement.

People at the meeting felt that it is essential that Co-ordinators think carefully about capacity and make decisions based on all the information available and what would be in the person's best interest. Co-ordinators need to ensure they always have well considered reasons for any decisions that they make when considering capacity issues.

The future

A third session planned for the end of November will have a focus on the new Independent Safeguarding Authority, the Vetting and Barring scheme and discuss the implications this might have for Homeshare.

For all of these topics there is rarely a clear answer for Homeshare but the Homeshare

Association seems a good place for Co-ordinators to air and share their views and begin to agree what good practice might look like.

For more information about joining the Homeshare Association or to suggest future topics for discussion contact Angela Catley at angela@naaps.org.uk