



**NRPF Network Steering Group
5th May 2009
Mechanics Institute, Manchester**

Present:

Janice Grant – Kent CC (Chair)
Jonathan Price – NRPF Network (Minutes)
Ian Beattie – LGA
Bill Davies – Manchester CC
Lynda Lawrence – Sandwell MBC
Carey Baff – Birmingham CC
Nicola Rea – North West SMP

Apologies:

Peter Olnier – Birmingham CC
Ted Brown – Bradford MBC
Olvia Fellas – NRPF Network/Islington Council
Sheila Ross – Leicester CC

Notes	Action points
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies Peter, Ted, Olvia and Sheila sent their apologies. Bill Brittain is standing down as chair of the London NRPF Network and as an NRPF Network Steering Group member.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes and Matters Arising None.</p>	
<p>3. Communications Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults with NRPF practice guidance Practice guidance is now published on NRPF Network webpages. Feedback from SG members welcome. Jonathan now going to begin work on A8/A2 migrant guidance and updating DV guidance and Human Rights Assessments template. • A8/A2 conference in Cardiff Conference has been rescheduled – will now take place on 8th July. NRPF Network leading on coordination of series of conferences (with BRC). SG members to publicise conference via networks. • Regional network events Regional NRPF events held in Newport, Taunton and Brighton in partnership 	<p>CB to send JP human rights template</p> <p>SG to publicise conference</p>

<p>with Wales, South West and South East SMPs, respectively. Well attended and a great deal of interest in developing regional networks. Jonathan to take this forward with SMP managers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership data Jonathan to provide quarterly membership statistics to SG members in regards to total numbers, sectors and regions. Currently, membership is 1080 and divided into regions as follows: London (32.5%); West Midlands (15.5%); Yorkshire and Humberside (12%); East of England (9%); South East (8%); Wales (6.5%); North West (6.5%); South West (4.5%); East Midlands (3%); North East (1.5%); and Scotland (1%). <p>Membership is divided into sectors as follows: local authorities (62.5%); voluntary sector (27%); NHS (4.5%); Police (3%); central government (1.5%); other (1.5%).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with IOM Olvia, Henry and Jonathan attended meeting with IOM in London. Discussed operational issues leading to length of time to jointly resolve cases. IOM looking at policies and protocols re: using existing LA assessments. NRPF Network and IOM looking at developing joint protocols. <p>IOM will undertake comms activities using NRPF Network contacts – via bulletin and regional networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General thoughts Making good headway in relation to activities set out in Network business plan. Jonathan writing communications strategy to map relationship of NRPF Network with other key organisations and agencies. NRPF Network should become centre of excellence in social services and NRPF by focusing on this rather than branch out. Partnerships with other orgs/agencies can help us work on broader issues relating to NRPF. 	<p>JP to discuss with SMP managers</p> <p>JP to prepare quarterly data for SG</p>
<p>4. IVU Domestic Violence Proposals Olvia attended meeting at Home Office to discuss final retrospective payment scheme. This should be rolled out from May 09. New post will be established within UKBA to manage enquiries about cases being processed under DVR. New Set DV application form will be uploaded to UKBA website. They have also a new definition of destitution which is more flexible. NRPF Network will draft briefing with LGA on the scheme, which will also highlight that s21 and s17 duties still apply to people with NRPF fleeing DV.</p>	
<p>5. NRPF Connect NRPF Network received funding from I&DeA to develop NRPF Connect, a project in partnership with the UKBA. UKBA very keen on project and excellent way to proceed with joint working between LAs and UKBA. The project will provide a mechanism for the secure transfer of data between LAs and UKBA on LA supported clients, with aim of resolving cases.</p> <p>Janice to send details to Jonathan of similar project being carried out between LAs and central government departments for information.</p>	<p>JG</p>
<p>6. Branding of NRPF Network Jonathan sought views on branding of NRPF Network and whether there is a</p>	

<p>need for an independent website and consistent branding. SG thought no need to use resources for this.</p>	
<p>7. Regional Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East of England East of England held first regional network meeting. IB researching key contacts within 54 authorities in region. IB writing to all authorities re: costs and numbers. Regional network doing work around subsistence payments, with a view to potentially making these consistent across region. • North West Manchester reached agreement with CRD that they resolve 5 cases supported by council every month. However, just as many cases being taken on, so not making a huge difference. <p>Some problems arising from clients being discharged from hospital (not under s117 MHA) and not meeting Slough threshold. Also, councils not applying ordinary residence consistently when people are in hospital for some time.</p> • West Midlands Regional network meeting postponed. • London Discussion around how London authorities can better use IOM services. IOM will attend meeting to present on the services they offer and how to work effectively with LAs. Greater London Authority who hold SMP funding presented at meeting and potential joint working with regional network at strategic level. LAs applying Slough judgement, many are in the process, but no JRs have been lost. • South East Regional event held in Brighton and went very well. This will hopefully be platform for development of regional network in the region. 	
<p>9. AOB Carey highlighted difficulties getting families onto mainstream support after getting status. SG members to research whether same is happening in other regions and NR to raise this at RSMP meeting.</p> <p>Olvia and Ian to prepare response to letter received from Lin Homer.</p>	<p>SG/NR</p> <p>OF/IB</p>
<p>10. Date of Next Meeting Thursday 16th July, 2-4pm, Islington Town Hall</p>	