

ECA Members Update

Skills for Care – Registered Managers Network – Essex

Members of the Registered Managers Network met yesterday (21st November) at the Kelvedon Institute to hear updates from Essex County Council Social Care, Skills for Care and Technology Enabled Care before enjoying a networking lunch.

The group is co-ordinated by Kerry Austin of KTM Care who says:

Skills for Care are funding local Registered Manager's Networks – A chance for us to come together, share / advise and support each other! It can be a lonely and scary place at the top and sometimes you need to talk to like-minded people who know exactly what you are going through!

We have an Essex Network and usually get together a few times a year to invite guest speakers in, share good practice and to have a good natter about the issues we are facing. We have a WhatsApp group to fire out a 'help' message to gain advice and are there for each other....works well too!

If this is something you would like to join – it's free! Email me and I'll book you a seat!

The Speakers

Simon Froud – Director of Local Delivery, Adult Social Care spoke first and described his varied background in Care including, OP, PSI and LD and became a SW and then ASW. He shared some interesting figures – the population of Essex is 1.4 million and there is a budget for Adult Social Care of £400m - equivalent to four London boroughs.
Quadrant-based

Simon talked about Provider failure. He had recently had to relocate 80 people in a short space of time when too homes closed and was now working with colleagues at ECC to manage the transfer of 600 people to alternative provision from Allied Healthcare.

Working together with providers was another theme that Simon addressed. The recent restructure of the 700 or so staff in Adult Social Care was intended to give a better focus on outcomes and more flexibility. He spoke of the challenges of recording so that providers have sufficient understanding of the needs, but not too proscriptive.

In some areas, ECC are asking providers to undertake 'trusted assessment' of service users they are working with. This makes sense because they often know the service user better than anyone. ECA are also working with ECC and Mid CCG to employ a hospital trusted assessor who will aim to improve the quality of information to support discharge from hospital.

Simon ended by answering questions across a diverse range of topics including:

- Delays in DoLs assessments
- Lack of Activity budgets in Supported Living
- End of Life Care
- Sleep-in rates
- ECC Quality Team and support to providers

Caroline Theodorou, Locality Manager for Skills for Care then gave an update:

- Workforce Development Fund - £250k available locally for training
 - Contact ectp@eca.org.uk or call 01268 565551
 - Includes funding for End of Life Awareness up to £140 if delivered by SfC endorsed providers until end of March 2019.
- New resources for EoL – an excellent new video 'Bounce Back Boy' is available on the SfC website along with accompanying resources.
- Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill
 - Currently going through Parliament
 - **Place a responsibility of Care Home Managers for arranging the assessments and determining whether the person should have access to either an Approved Mental Health Capacity Professional and/or an independent advocate.**
 - Concerning that this shifts responsibility to providers.
- New Version of NMDS-SC is coming
 - SfC are asking for providers to test things - survey via the slides.
- SfC Guide to Safe Staffing now available
 - CQC guidance is vague and general.
 - SfC have developed this with providers and CQC
 - Free and downloadable
- Calculating the Cost of Recruitment
 - Online tool
- Using Conversations to Plan Care and Support
 - Helps providers check that they are having the right conversations to ensure that they get the right support.

Finally, **Sara Sparling ECC, TEC Facilitator** gave a lively talk on the latest resources:

- Chair/bed/door exit sensor - available on line 'Unforgettable', Countrywide, etc
 - Pill dispensers that prompt and remind
 - Magi-plug - sink/shower sensor
 - Motion-activated memo minder - 'Mum, don't forget your keys', 'Check your morning book', (£20)
 - Photo album for ABI, dementia
- ICE - Inclusive Communication Essex
 - Need a library card
 - GoTalk which can be customised. Basic has 6 x 5 cell sheets
 - Comms mats - uses a programme called widgets which produces a picture for a word, e.g. tea.
- Alexa - prompts, reminders; room-to-room calling; environmental controls.
 - Can be used in conjunction with GoTalk.
- ORCHA
 - Website for approved apps.
 - Seeing AI - free from Microsoft
 - Texttospeech
- Special Effects
 - Free for 2-3 months to try then can buy.
 - Adaptations to games consoles

- Environmental Controls
 - Free equipment for, e.g. MS
 - Supported Living or own homes not residential.
- Libraries
 - Offer an abundance of groups which may be of interest.

The summary above doesn't really do justice to the content and cannot reflect the conversations that went on over lunch, so why not contact Kerry and come to the next meeting? Also, if there are particular speakers/topics that would be useful , let us know.

Useful Contacts

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