

## **REPORT ON GLENROTHES AND NORTH-EAST FIFE L.M.H.P. FORUM ON 12/10/09**

The main topic to report on is the discussion about spending the remaining £22,000 in 09-10 and the plans for the £40,000 in 2010-11.

I queried the use of this funding, my understanding was that it was for the Voluntary Sector, however I was informed it is C.H.P. funds and for spending on whatever the L.M.H.P. decided, based on HEAT Targets and local need.

***I was asked to inform the Voluntary Sector Forum that none of the £22K would be spent on voluntary sector projects.***

It will be used to fund one, maybe two, evening events for G.P.'s to try and get them engaged with the L.M.H.P.

The remainder, and majority will be spent buying hours from N.H.S. Fife's IT department to get them to pull together all the information available on community statutory and voluntary health services to make it easier for people to know where to find help. This is particularly aimed at 'mild to moderate' depression and sounded largely web based. It was hoped that G.P.Practices would find it useful.

This then moved onto a discussion about next years funds.

There were suggestions that it be spent on one big project rather than small amounts to groups providing services. I pointed out the importance of these small amounts for the groups who had received money and those who may in the future.

I also suggested allocating a percentage of the funds for voluntary sector service-provision but this was not agreed due to the main idea.

The main suggestion was to employ a person whose remit would be to signpost people to services available, potentially accompany them to first appointments and remind them about appointments, times of groups etc. They would not provide therapy or support. They would be 'housed' in a voluntary sector project and this was viewed as the voluntary sector receiving funding.

I pointed out many services are doing parts of these activities already: signposting, accompanying people, ensuring good access to other services. The response was that the initial information gathering exercise, funded from the remainder of this years funds would establish this. It was felt that a post and associated costs would use up most of next years money.

The point was made that such a wealth of information would be for Fife wide use and that the other L.M.H.P.'s could be approached to share the costs.

***I was asked to inform the Forum that a decision would be made by the beginning of 2010 regarding next years funds and we would be informed about this.***

We need to discuss:

Are these plans the best use of limited funding?

What will be the impact of the lack of funds to groups and services?

If these funds are for the voluntary sector then surely we should have more say? I will speak to Lyndsay about this to clarify the position.

What do we feel are the key areas for Glenrothes and North East Fife next year, taking into account HEAT Targets and local need?

I had the impression Glenrothes was considered an area of need yet there will be no funds spent on this area despite the needs assessment that was conducted.