

SUN update

Service User Network

Issue November 2009



Service user network

A big thank you!

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all those people who came to our last Service User Network meeting, held on 29 October at The Salvation Army.

People enjoyed the presentations given by Frank, who showed a DVD and Carol who spoke about The Sunflower Project.

There are also great interest from people wishing to express their opinion on the Allocations Policy, which was consulted on at our meeting. More information on the specific areas discussed are attached to this update.

If anyone is interested in attending future SUN meetings or becoming involved with the network, please contact me using the details at the back of the update.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff and residents at the Salvation Army for all their help on the day!

Jane Medd
Community Housing

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The next SUN meeting will
be on...

Thursday 21 January 2010 at
Retail Trust, Moores house,
Sheldene Gardens, M6 8PF
from 12:30 - 15:00

A light lunch will be provided

Salford City Council

Feedback from Supporting People celebration event

On the 28 October 2009, an event celebrating the successes of the Supporting People programme, and promoting housing related support, was held at Bulie Hill Park.

Over 120 people came to the event, including the Major of Salford and numerous agencies that fund, plan, deliver or make use of housing support services.

The Supporting People Commissioning Body, who manage the overall programme, have asked me to pass on my thanks to everyone who came and contributed to the event, which everyone agreed was key to its success.

Whilst not wishing to highlight any one group of people, a special mention must be given to Rachel, Carol and Frank, whose presentations brought home to everyone, how important housing related support services are and what they can help you achieve, in a very personal and powerful way.

Glynn Meacher
Senior Manager
Policy and Services



"My name is Carol and I have been a client at Joan Lestor House, an all female hostel in Walkden for 9 months.

I am a SUN member and was asked by Jane if I would give a speech at the Supporting People celebration event, about my time at JLH.

At the event I stood at the front of a large room with many eyes gazing at me, telling my story. I was so nervous but I needn't have worried because after I had done it, I felt absolutely elated. Everyone had listened in silence to my story and greeted it with warm applause at the end.

The feedback I had was so positive and comments from all were very heart warming. Even the Major and the Major's wife said how brave I'd been to get up and tell my story. I'm so glad I agreed to do this, it was a very positive event and I look forward to attending other events in the future."

Carol
Resident at Joan Lestor House

"I was pleased to be able to give a short account of the support I had received from Peter Hacking, Manager of Anchor Housing's St John's Court, Broughton, when I moved into my studio flat in September last year.

The reception I received from the meeting was very pleasing and as I said to several of the other delegates, speaking to such a large group of people held no worries for me, as I regularly read the lesson at St.John's R.C.Cathedral, Salford and before I retired from my full time work with Manchester Education Committee, had experience of various meetings.

It was great to be associated with the Objective: "Creating a future where people see Salford as a great place to live."

Frank
Resident at Anchor Housing

Sunflower Project

Having spoken at the Supporting People event, I then went on to speak at the Service User Network meeting, at the Salvation Army on Thursday 29 October. This time I was to talk about the Sunflower Project, that staff at JLH have arranged for the clients to take part in. At the beginning it started as a 12 module project, designed to increase knowledge around independent living skills and to go on and maintain a tenancy. The wealth of information and knowledge within each module, has seen to increase to 14 modules now.

I took my own completed Sunflower Project and gave a small speech about it, after which I passed round with all the free gifts we were given with each module and invited the people there to have a look through. Once again, everyone listened with interest and applauded with enthusiasm when I finished.

Being given the chance to tell people my story and explain what the Sunflower Project is all about, was a privilege and truly beneficial to me.

I will look forward to other SUN events and thank Jane Medd for giving me these opportunities.

Carol
Resident at Anchor Housing



Allocations Review - Your opinions count!

At the last meeting Vicky Crookes and Charlotte Hulton from Community Housing Development Team, came to talk to members about Salford's review of it's allocation policy. An allocations policy, is a document that tells us how the City Council will offer housing to people in housing need, through the choice based lettings system, which is called 'Salford Home Search'.

Vicky gave a presentation about the allocations policy and the things the council were planning to change. Network members were asked to give comments and views on the policy, so we could let the council know how the changes might affect you. Network members were asked to think about whether the changes were good or not so good.

Everyone got to have their say on the changes and as a result of this, we have been able to write up the comments and put them into a report. The report was sent to Housing Connections who are a part of the Council on Friday 13 November 2009.

Now we are waiting for them to tell us what they think of what you and other groups have said about the planned changes. When we hear back from them, we will feedback at the next service user network meeting.

If you would like to read the report, which is called the 'Consultation Response from the Service User Network', a copy has been sent out with this newsletter.

We would like to say a big thank you for all those members you gave their comments at the meeting and hope that you will get involved in other consultation with the Service User Network in the future.

Charlotte Hulton
Principal Officer - Community Housing

Your Service User Network contact is Jane Medd, you can contact Jane by either:

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