

Health Sub Committee Report – March 2003

The Health Sub committee was asked to convene a meeting to listen to a presentation from Kate Crow, Project Manager for the ICES (integrated community Equipment services) project.

The sub group met on 24th February at the Neville Garret Centre to listen about the project and decide whether or not they felt it was necessary to be involved as a forum.

The meeting began by showing members a range of aids available for assistance with Daily living. Members were asked to try and guess what each item was for. It was not quite as simple as it seemed and a few laughs were had with some suggestions.

We then looked at how the current services for Equipment provision operate and did an exercise on who provides what type of equipment. It illustrated that there was some confusion around this.

We were informed that in March 2001 the Government issued the Guide to integrated Community Equipment services. Its aims are to integrate the separate providers of community equipment into one service. This will involve a pooled budget and better service provision. There is a deadline imposed by Government to achieve these changes of 1st April 2004.

The Forum has been asked to become members of the Service Users Sub Group which will link into the ICES steering group which comprises of members of the Primary Care Trust and the Social Services Department. It is essential that there is service user involvement in this initiative. It is intended that the Service user group will be involved in the planning and monitoring of the service.

The role of the service user group will be to contribute to the decision making process. As members of an organisation who represent the views of older people the health sub committee were asked to put forward some individuals who could represent the forum in this way.

Three forum members volunteered for this role and they were all new members to the group.

Aida Morris from the Experience Corps
Mr Jagan Math Birdi
Mrs Gravestock

Are now the members of the Health Sub Committee working on the ICES service users committee. The next meeting of the service users group will be on the 3rd April and the members attending will feed back to the Health Sub Committee and main forum as the need arises.