

Autumn Newsletter 2010

In this issue; law commission review of social care for adults,
Ordinary residence regulations, our activities and future meetings

Dear Member.....

The Trustees of Families and Friends of Camphill would like to take this opportunity to send our heartfelt thanks to everyone who continues to support us.

We continue to come together to support Camphill, those we love within the communities and their families.

Families and Friends of Camphill aims to circulate information and raise awareness of current issues that affect Camphill residents and their families. As an organisation we keep Families and Friends together through regional meetings, newsletters and providing articles for the publication 'Camphill Pages'.

We keep members informed on current funding and policy issues through the support from the Camphill Social Work Advisory Team. We support Camphill's lobbying / public relations activities as requested by Camphill as well as running projects such as the recent 'Person Centred Planning Project'.

Trustees

At our Annual General Meeting held on 19th June 2010 at Thornbury the following were elected:

Chairman
Treasurer

Vivian Griffiths
John Price

Trustees

Anita Bennett
Simon Burdis
Evan Davies
Merton Parker
Mary Pearson

Robin Porter
Peter Stephenson
Kim Wood
Peter Wood

You can contact our secretary at families.friends@camphill.net

Regrettably for us Peter Stephenson has moved on to a new position and has as a consequence resigned as a trustee. Thanks to Peter who acted as our Deputy Chair and, *inter alia*, helped us with his anthroposophical knowledge.

Appeal for new trustees

We would greatly welcome offers to serve as trustees.

Recent Regional Meetings

Our June meeting in Thornbury, following the annual general meeting, took the form of a consultation exercise as part of the Law Commission's proposals to

consolidate and reform all existing adult social care legislation into a new single statute.

Tim Spencer-Lane, the Law Commission's lawyer in charge of the consultation exercise, was most interested in hearing our views. He explained that, although this consultation exercise is preliminary, the Government will not hold another one before passing any legislation based upon the proposal. He explained that the proposed statute will not remove any current entitlements in the assessment and decision-making process, including residential services. He also explained that the rights of carers to their own assessment etc. would not be diminished.

Throughout the proceedings those families present constantly made the point that the new legislation should maintain current practice, including highlighting the rights

of individuals and families, and that informal carers (i.e. usually parents, families) should have a continued role in the whole process of assessment and care provision of their family members. We tried to make the point that the parents and families of people with learning disabilities often differ from the families of other vulnerable groups in that our responsibilities and duties usually last from birth to death, that most families care for their learning disabled relatives and are also best placed to know their relatives' needs and wishes. We also raised the position of intentional communities like Camphill within the range of housing options, the importance of allowing our relatives to choose to live there and the need to sort out funding problems

CF&F's bid for a new grant-funded project

Our Person Centred Planning Project ended last year and its evaluation was well received by the Big Lottery Fund. You will remember that our last event was a very successful large scale conference planned and attended by Camphill residents. For several months the follow up of this conference and the preparations for our bid to the Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities Programme were very kindly funded by the Camphill Village Trust, to whom we are deeply indebted.

Our bid was for a large grant to continue and extend this conference impulse. We did extensive work on this mostly carried out by our training officer Julie Woods. We got through the first round but unfortunately our application failed to get through the final stage. Naturally we were deeply disappointed by this although we took some consolation from the fact that our application was commended by the Big Lottery Fund but there was intense competition for funds.

Ordinary Residence Regulations

This matter is beginning to affect seriously Camphill and parents and friends. Last year the regulations for Ordinary Residence were clarified by the Government and are having an arguably very adverse effect. Under the new regulations people with learning disabilities, among other groups, have the right to move from one authority to another. The problem is that the total responsibility for fresh re-assessment, care planning and funding is then transferred to the receiving authority with no commitment to replicate the original assessment etc. Funding unfortunately does not follow the individual. Authorities with residents seeking to move are naturally pleased to place their residents in

a Camphill community in another authority because they gain financially by the transfer.

This is compounded by the requirement for **strategic relevance**. Each authority is required to provide a range of accommodation and support services strategically relevant to its own inhabitants' needs, not for those of other authorities' inhabitants. This causes a tendency for authorities, if indeed they want to provide intentional communities, to fill communities with their own residents or at least to insist on first refusal or quotas.

The individual's choice also becomes crucial in that authorities can claim that it

is families that are choosing to place individuals in intentional communities rather than the individuals themselves, therefore authorities might reject an application to transfer – or they might claim that individuals do not have the capacity to make a choice therefore should be in residential care rather than in the supported living settings of most communities.

Families and Friends worked with the journalist Saba Salman to produce her excellent article in Society Guardian on 13 October, "Caught in a Trap", which highlighted the problems of Ordinary Residence.

link:

www.guardian.co.uk/society/caughtinatrap

The Guardian then published our letter (see below), which in turn elicited other letters along similar lines. We are attending the ARC (Association for Real Change) Annual Conference on 1st and 2nd December, with others from Camphill, and intend to raise this issue there.

(Published in Society Guardian, Readers' Responses, 13th October 2010).

"There is a need for a single body to bring together all funding streams for those learning disabled people assessed as in need of care: all financial state benefits, plus health and social care funding. It would be a greatly simplified system: transparent, transferable, liberating. The individual would take their money where they choose to go.

It would also do away with the current arbitrary division between health and social care: gaps into which the learning disabled person falls. Authorities understandably wish to pass the financial buck for the sake of their budgets. But arguments over who picks up which tab are not only cruel to the person, but criminally wasteful to the public purse. It's time to close the gaps."

The whole situation is having a very serious effect on Camphill and on families. This is something that all families and communities need to be aware of and is something on which Camphill and Families and Friends of Camphill need to campaign.

Membership

Thank you to everyone who has already returned their membership forms with their subscriptions for the year 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011.

For those of you who have not already done so, It would be greatly appreciated if you could renew your membership for the year 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011 please by completing the enclosed membership forms and returning them as soon as possible with a small donation of a minimum of £5 per person or £10 per family to help cover our administration costs as Families and Friends is completely self funding. *(N.B. Membership forms are only enclosed if you have not yet renewed your membership)*

Members also have the opportunity to pay their subscriptions by standing order and/or opting to complete a gift aid declaration form.

Whilst our membership continues to grow it is necessary that the secretary receives a new completed membership form each year so that the data base can be kept up to date with any address or email changes.

In view of the declining interest in the raffle in recent years and mindful of the financial difficulties which some of our members will be facing we have decided not to hold the raffle this year

Any Ideas?

We should be delighted to hear from you if you have any ideas or suggestions for future meetings, or indeed of any things which you feel that we as trustees should be doing on

your behalf. Please let any trustee know if you have any thoughts- Evan's and Tracy's details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have already had suggestions for a siblings' meeting while other people would like to discuss the role of the family in Camphill.

Dates for your diary

An important date for your diary is our next regional meeting which will take place on Saturday 26th February 2011 in The Lantern Centre, Folly Farm Road, Ringwood Hampshire BH24 2NN from 10.30 (for coffee) until approximately 2.00. The meeting will take the form of a talk and discussion led by Chris Cook, the new chair of the Camphill Village Trust, Andy Paton, the leader of the Camphill Social Worker Team, and Phil Gibson, who leads on personalisation in Camphill. They will speak to us about "What is the way ahead for Camphill?", including the way that Camphill will approach social care legislation and government policy, funding issues, changing attitudes within communities, the role of families and so on. Members who heard Andrew Plant's excellent talk to us last year or read his subsequent paper will appreciate the background to our speakers' views.

This promises to be a really important meeting .Chris really wants to meet families to discuss current issues and we shall have the opportunity to meet him and to raise matters with him. This regional meeting is not to be missed as there will be an increasingly important role for families in the future. Please make every effort to attend this important dialogue between families and the CVT chair. The day will also offer an opportunity to renew and make friendships and to support Camphill.

A buffet lunch will be served in the Lantern cafe at a cost of £7 per person, or you might prefer to bring your own lunch

If you are able to attend please complete and return the reply slip below by 12th February 2011.

Please return this reply slip for attending the Regional Meeting on Saturday 26th February 2011 at The Lantern Centre, Ringwood by 12th February 2011 to Evan Davies at 6, Raisdale Road, Penarth, CF64 5BN (Tel No 02920 707751).
Alternatively please email Evan on evanandjennifer@hotmail.com

Name(s) ----- wish to attend the meeting on 26th
February 2011

Address -----

Email address ----- Phone -----

Would you like directions?

Would you like the buffet lunch at £7.00 per person?

