

Focus On : Special Interest Groups

The purpose of the H&SA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) is to share experiences and learning on a range of topics that affect the work of our members. Last year we focussed our groups on particular subject areas such as housing, care & support, housing brokerage and individual service funds.

We asked members what they wanted from future groups and most members said they want groups to be geographically closer and more flexible on subject areas, so this year we have set dates for SIGs all over the country and we want you to tell us what you want to cover in the groups. Is getting housing a problem, or making the money work? Do you want to develop Individual Service Funds, think about new ways to support people or talk about recruitment issues?

We have also started Driving Up Quality networks with our members to come together and discuss how you can shift the culture of your organisation, work transparently and drive up quality. We have also started an Operations Director network to bring members together who are in this role.

We now have Special Interest Groups in 5 regions meeting quarterly in :

- London
- Birmingham
- Manchester
- Bristol
- York

2016 Special Interest Groups dates:

LONDON			
Driving Up Quality	Feb 1 2016	May 23 2016	Sept 26 2016
General SIG	Feb 2 2016	May 24 2016	Sept 27 2016
Operations Directors	Feb 2 2016	May 24 2016	Sept 27 2016
BRISTOL			
Driving Up Quality	Feb 3 2016	Jun 8 2016	Sept 14 2016
General SIG	Feb 4 2016	Jun 9 2016	Sept 15 2016
BIRMINGHAM			
Driving Up Quality	Feb 29 2016	Jul 4 2016	Oct 3 2016
General SIG	Mar 1 2016	Jul 5 2016	Oct 4 2016
MANCHESTER			
Driving Up Quality	Mar 14 2016	Aug 1 2016	Nov 7 2016
General SIG	Mar 15 2016	Aug 2 2016	Nov 8 2016
YORK			
Driving Up Quality	Apr 25 2016	Aug 22 2016	Dec 5 2016
General SIG	Apr 26 2016	Aug 23 2016	Dec 6 2016

The cost to attend the Special Interest Groups are:

- Full H&SA Member Organisations free of charge
- Basic H&SA Member Organisations £25
- Non-Member Organisations £95

- Driving Up Quality network - free to all members

If you are interested in attending or would like more information about H&SA Special Interest Groups please contact mariana.ortiz@housingandsupport.org.uk

H&SA Annual Report 2014-2015

What we did in 2014-15

ADVICE: H&SA provided advice, consultancy and workshops to 3150 people, families and members.

MEMBERSHIP: We had 134 organisational members and 45 individual members.

DRIVING UP QUALITY: Over 300 providers and commissioners signed up to the Code and we now have 180 active participants.

KEEPING IT LOCAL: H&SA supplied a third year of services for a 3 year

Department of Health grant to deliver local training and support across the UK.

PEOPLE FIRST ENGLAND: H&SA supported the development of People First England to strengthen the voice of people with learning disabilities.

TRANSFORMING CARE: H&SA worked with DH, NHS England and the Winterbourne View JIP to support the development of the right kind of community services to keep people out of hospitals.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

Specially tailored H&SA 'SIGs' were set up to give members the information they want, with the members determining the agenda.

EVENTS & TRAINING: H&SA had an Annual Conference and ran 97 days of training and events for our members and others. We also continued to promote and manage the use of the online training programme "Open Future Learning".

MONEY: In the year 2014-2015 H&SA received £318k income, and spent £325k.

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

£267k on paying staff and associates to do their work. We had 7 staff members during the year (inc People First England) and 5 Associates. No staff were paid more than £50,000

£39k for running events, marketing and updating our website

£19k for running the office and the charity

Our full accounts are available on the Charity Commission web site.