

# A Step Towards Support Brokerage

Last year ASSH Commissioned Andrew Carpenter, an independent Support Broker and member of the National Brokerage Network, to deliver training in Support Planning and Brokerage. The training was given to a selection of staff with a view to helping them understand more about support brokerage. This was an intensive 4 day course with 'Person Centred Working' at its core.

The training covered many areas and issues such as

- How we got to where we are now with social care in the UK
- The Personalisation debate. 'Starting from a better place'.
- Person Centred Support Planning.
- Our own Broker CV's
- Intelligent, Creative funding, and informal support
- The Role of the Broker and the issues that may be faced.
- Looking at outcomes and how to meet them. (In-house and independent)
- Planning, Costing and Budgeting.
- How it can make my job easier. (Care Managers/Social Workers)



Andrew Carpenter

The training stimulated the participants to think and debate, causing people to reflect on their own belief systems and challenge them to think about the conflicts both personal and professional which Andrew delivered in a very calm and thought provoking way. Issues were raised as to whether support planning and brokerage should be 'in-house' or completely independent. There were differing opinions on this but all agreed that people should have the choice themselves leaving 'both' as a possible option.

**"The course highlighted the importance of a support plan, what this should contain and how it should be managed."**

Additionally, being that Andrew is a Broker himself, he was able to give training from his practical experience rather than just what he has been taught to teach. The course should be ongoing and all persons wishing to be a broker in the borough should be able to attend."

**"I can see real scope using this way of working for being creative in supporting people to help them shape their future"**

**One Person was so inspired by the training they have resigned from their job to look at starting a Social Enterprise to deliver Peer Support Brokerage!!**

**"We left the training feeling positive and hopeful as it will enable us to give more choice, control and independence to the people we work with, which is ultimately why we did our social work training. Support brokerage will offer us the opportunity to be more flexible, imaginative and proactive in accessing resources that we have not been able to in the past due to the constraints within the care management model. The training provided us with the information and the tools to think more positively with regards to the personalisation agenda."**