Thames Valley Outreach Librarians
Minutes of the meeting held at Wexham Park Hospital, Slough
Friday 7th January 2005

Present:
Rowena Perry (Chair)
Laura Strafford (Secretary)
Geoff Fleet
Anne Gray
Gill Bridgeman
Rachel Coton
Val Trinder

1. Apologies
Sue Lacey-Bryant, Sarah Old

2. Matters arising
Current version of the training evaluation questionnaire needs updating on the Smart Group site and circulated across the Thames Valley.

Action:
- AG to update questionnaire on Smart Group and circulate via the TVHLN list.
- RP to promote existence of website to TVHLN list and encourage all those doing training to join.
- VT to remind everyone, at the next forum, to use the new form.

3. Specialist areas
It was suggested at the group’s first meeting that all members take a key area in which to specialise, RP asked if we were still interested in doing this.

3.1 LS suggested we do this by linking into the Focussing on the User project and choosing areas already identified as needing investigation e.g. Practice Managers.

3.2 GF suggested the creation of a staff directory to show areas of expertise.

3.3 RC explained how she is taking part in a shadowing project, shadowing clinicians in their day-to-day work and this might be a useful way to explore specialist areas. Some reservations were voiced regarding how willing the clinicians would be in allowing us to do this.

After discussion It was suggested that any resources or information individuals gather on a specialist group should be posted on the Smart Group site. In the meantime all of the group would try to gain interviews from as many Practice Managers as possible and share the results at the next meeting.

Action:
- LS to draft interview questions for Practice Managers and circulate to the group.
- All group to conduct interviews with as many PMs as possible.
- VT to put this project on the Focussing on the User database.

4. Training evaluation & recording of statistics
LS asked how the statistics are to be collated and analysed. VT suggested the Public Health Resources Unit may be able to help in interpreting them. GF felt the initial analysis should be simple and offered to analyse the results in order that VT can take hard information to the PCTs.

It was decided that all the statistics across the Thames Valley should be collated quarterly.
**Action:**  
- GF to analyse raw totals of the data collected Oct–Dec. This will be sent to the group for comment prior to being taken to the PCTs.

5. **Partnerships with Public Libraries**  
VT spoke to the group about a project, in the Northwest, of partnership with public libraries. Health libraries were offering training to public library staff on retrieving health information using free internet resources and NeLH. In exchange, the public libraries refer enquirers to the health libraries when necessary. VT asked if this was a project the group might like to embark upon.

Overall the response was negative with the group feeling that other areas have greater priority at the present time. VT will take the idea to the county group meetings to gain response from library managers.

6. **NLH/NeLH**  
Following discussions on lis-medical, the group discussed whether we should be training users on NLH or NeLH. Generally it was felt that the NLH site is not a working model as key features are missing (such as Prodigy and the mental health section). It was decided that the group's comments should be collated and sent to the National Core Content group.

**Action:**  
- RP to collate comments.

7. **AOB**  
RP talked about the Practice Facilitators Conference on 20th January in Aylesbury. Libraries in the Thames Valley have been asked to man a stand during the lunchtime. Belinda Hylton will be attending and GB offered to join her.

**Action:**  
- All leaflets and handouts to be sent to Belinda.
- GB to contact Evana Cook for a list of libraries in TV, so this can be given out at the conference.

8. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 28th April 2005, 2.00 – 4.00pm, Seminar Room D