**Midland Rehabilitation workers meeting**

**25th October 2015**

**The Opal assessment centre, Coventry**

**Attendance:** Alison Spence –Coventry, Josh Pugh – Coventry, Jane Davis – Coventry, Kelly Sowter – Warwickshire Vision Support, Imke Carruthers – Warwickshire Vision Support, Mike Horseman – Nottingham City, Carol Goodwin –Stoke, Katie Owen –Stoke, Michelle Lofthouse – Birmingham, Donna Healey-Sharpe – Derby Sight Support, David Bignell – Birmingham City University, Marian Tague – Staffordshire: Lichfield, Tamworth & Burton, Jane Rogers – East Staffordshire, Daniel Scholes – Solihull, Gary Holland – Sandwell.

**Clarification requested for minutes of meeting 8th May.**

There seemed to be some doubt about the Deafblind regulations these are specifically covered in the Care Act.

**Area Round Up**

Each area updated on what they have been doing. There are a number of areas recruiting including Warwickshire vision Support and Nottingham. Birmingham and Sandwell also may be recruiting in the near future.

Discussion

There was a discussion about some of the difficulties with recruitment recently. Organisations are finding it difficult to fill posts. Blind Veterans have also struggled and a future restructure is likely to open up more Rehab posts.

Dave noted that BCU did reduce the numbers on the course as they were at risk of flooding the market. A good percentage of current students are being put through the course by an employer so are unlikely to be seeking work once they qualify.

Update on BCU course

Due to difficulties filling posts, concerns were raised about the risk of Maverick OTs doing Rehab with little or no real knowledge. BCU are working to raise awareness of the risks and are now providing short courses for OTs and other professionals along with Provision solutions.

Currently BCU are not getting flooded with applications for the course. This may also be because they are being more selective.

A suggestion was made that if RW’s were registered for mobility this could protect our profession. Dave pointed out that currently the government are not allowing any new professional bodies so we would have join on to an existing professional body such as the OT.

BCU top up qualification

The new Habilitation course has been running since April next one due to start early next year. People on the course are working with children adults.

Top up for Qualified RW starts in February. It is a modular course. Much of it will be done online with a few days at the Uni. See BCU website for the details.

A.O.B

Coventry asked if any other RWs were being asked to do Hearing assessments. Since the HI worker left they have not been replaced and RW have to cover the HI work as well as the VI. Sandwell are also in this situation, their Hearing impairment worker has left and the RW are picking up the hearing assessments etc.