

Minutes of VASP Meeting in Cloghans, Melton Hill, Woodbridge on Thursday 6th of November 2014 at 2.30pm

Present:

Helen McNorton - MIND	Luke Bennett – ESP
Wendy Hall – Age UK	Sam Barton – Places For People
Sally Pryke – HealthWatchSuffolk	Suzy Clifford – SOBS
Jane Clements – NSFT	Kerry Overton – HealthWatchSuffolk
Elle Moore – SNAP	Suzanne Wyard – NSFT
Stella Morris – SNAP	Tom Andrews – SCDC Apprentice (ESP)
Kristina Nemeth – SCC Public Health	

Sam Barton – Place For People

Sam gave an update on the work that places for people are doing. At Brackenbury sports centre there is a new event called walking football starting on the 6th of November, to get the older generation moving and meeting people. Sam is also attending a meeting on the 7th of November with Nick Hume who is the CEO of Ipswich hospital, to discuss GP referrals. Finally Sam primarily attended the meeting to see if links could be made between places for people and other organisations to work together.

Suzy Clifford – SOBS

Suzy works closely with people who have been affected by suicide. In a recent session twenty people were asked to put the hand up if they had ever had suicidal thoughts; a staggering eighteen of them out of the twenty put their hands up. An important topic that was raised was the language people use when talking about suicide, for example using the word committed when talking about someone who has died by suicide, it was raised that using the

word committed makes it sound like a crime, for example someone committed a robbery.

An action that needs to be addressed is the way that the group is advertised, there needs to be more awareness of SOBS (Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide). Another point that was raised in relation to this is, the knowledge that children have of suicide, children are always kept in the dark about suicide, if children are educated about it, then suicide may not affect them in the way that it would have if they didn't know and were then suddenly told.

Stella Morris – SNAP

Stella made the point that SNAP have not received an extension on their contract, they have received a refurbished contract because £2m has to be saved from £9.3m. SNAP have also had 263 referrals in October that also include people from Waveney who are struggling with accommodation. The 263 referrals consist of people with learning disabilities, drug and substance abuse and mental health issues along with added people from Waveney.

Kerry Overton – HealthWatchSuffolk

Kerry raised the issues of certain areas missing out, this can be fixed by either making sure volunteers visit places further afield or obtaining more volunteers to cover the wider area. Kerry also mentioned that HealthWatchSuffolk have a 2 year extension on their contract. At the moment HealthWatchSuffolk are involved in 15 various different projects and many surveys.

Helen McNorton – MIND

Helen is giving an update on housing at the next meeting, Helen also raised the point that The Haven is closing down, due to funds not being available and the Haven could not raise the money themselves.

Wendy Hall – Age UK

The main topics that Wendy brought up were making sure the elderly stay independent at home. A possible action of getting people in the early stages of dementia out and about was also raised; a way to do this is getting them to attend the community garden project.

