

Minutes of Ipswich VASP Monthly Meeting 5th September 2013

Attendees:- Chair – David Grimmer –Suffolk Libraries, Linda Brown – Julian Support, Guenever Pachent – NSFT Governor, Suzanne Mildenhall – P.T Workwise, Samantha Grindrod – NSFT, Marie Jordan – NSFT, Richard Squirrell – Service-User, Bim Templeman – Public Health Suffolk, Fiona Palmer – United Response, Jason Berry – Open Road, Louise Marks – Suffolk Family Carers (latter half of meeting)

Minutes - Cathie Lee

All - Brief introductions and a review of last months minutes, including addendum regarding Voiceability (already circulated)

Agenda Items:-

- i) **Public Health Suffolk**
- ii) **Updates – Various**
- iii) **World Mental Health Day**

Public Health Suffolk – Bim Templeman

BT advises group that Public Health Suffolk is now part of SCC, and there is a new structure as a result. This includes an overall Director, 3 Lead Consultants, Commissioning Team, and Community Engagement.

Action Point – BT to email full structure to CL to circulate

BT states that funding to various areas (eg drug & alcohol, smoking, obesity) is no longer ring-fenced and can be allocated where appropriate.

Current providers have been given notice of a requirement to re-tender for 2014, but have had their current contracts extended to allow this to take place. The aim is that the “new” providers shadow the existing ones to allow full takeover April 2015.

Action Point – BT to email letter outlining this to CL for circulation

BT talks of a major stakeholder event November this year to introduce concept of uniting drug & alcohol services for both the young and adults, with a view to achieving seamless treatment, and thereby avoid current transfer problems.

BT advises group of available DAAT comprehensive training with online registration through Customer Service Direct. They also offer bespoke training for groups (min 6) – eg Legal Highs. www.suffolkcpd.co.uk

Action Point – BT to email to CL for circulation

BT also talks of the Recovery Grant Scheme (£500 - £5K) available for Voluntary & Community Groups to assist them with working with people in recovery. This will be re-launched in October.

BT gives the following dates for informal network recovery meetings:- 19/9 (East Coast Recovery in Lowestoft) & 27/9 in Bury St Edmunds. Also 1/10 is Strategic Partnership Day.

BT updates group on progress of “Strength” campaign advising this has been such a success in Ipswich that the one remaining shop selling super-strength alcohol in town will be given notice to stop by the Council.

Richard Squirrel

RS updates group (following his noted experience in the July minutes) on the telephone numbers for service-users to contact CMHT. **RS** feels service is inappropriate and unprofessional. He has had to leave messages in office hours, and is not confident that these were responded to. He even asked for Debbie White and was told no-one of that name worked there. **SM** endorses this and has already had a meeting with Debbie White in this respect; as **SM** has found that her messages for Care Co-ordinators are not getting through. Apparently Debbie acknowledged communication with both Service-Users and care-givers poorly managed. **SM** will update group once she receives formal response

LB has 3 clients who are due to change Care Co-ordinator in less than a month but still do not have the name of the new person.

Action Point – DG to feedback these concerns over communication to Main Vasp, & invite Debbie back to Ipswich Vasp; and GP to feedback to Board

RS repeats his concern that SCC apparently continue to increase their investment in Tobacco Companies.

RS would also like the success (over 400 attendees) of the Recovery Roadshow to be celebrated. **BM** advises that they are currently considering whether to repeat this again, and will update us shortly once decision made.

RS also advises that SAT website appears to be 18 months out of date – **BM** advises SAT are independent of PH but she will feed this back to them.

RS also repeats his request for support for the abstinent, and reminds **DG/LM** of his request for statistics on the success of the weekly recovery sessions run by SAM Project? **Action Point – DG to investigate**

RS raises concern over the payment of £10/hr plus travel costs to service-users who attend consultation meetings due to potential DWP penalty for non-declaration of "Change of Circumstances". **RS** feels this funding would be better used to provide respite or support. Group discussion on whether this is encouraging the right people to attend, and concern that the feedback received could be distorted as a result

GP clarifies that this is misunderstanding of the strategy and that payment of up to £10 is only available where the service-user is making significant contribution to meeting (eg making a presentation) – attendance alone is not a qualifying factor.

Open Road – Jason Berry

JB advises they receive all their referrals from CRI – and they offer a range of services including complimentary therapy, individual work, and Foundations of Recovery (group sessions of 8 weeks)

JB advises that they can offer significantly improved service with access to 4 counsellors; and although abstinence is the ultimate aim it is not necessarily a requirement.

Guenever Pachent

GP gives the following event dates:-

30/9– Complexity in Later Life, 31/10– NeuroDevelopment, 27/11 –Children & Families. 3 (½ day) Spiritual & Mental Health – Bury Library 14/10, Ipswich Library 22/10 and Kirkley Centre Lowestoft 28/10. All 1-4:30 with lunch provided

Museum of East Anglia – Fiona Palmer

FP distributes flyer concerning appeal for the restoration of the Windpump – those who make donations to the appeal have the opportunity to have their names engraved on plaques below www.eastanglianlife.org.uk

PT Workwise – Suzanne Mildenhall

SM advises group that, following merge with Papworth Trust, they are now known as PT Workwise (although service & roles remain unchanged)

SM has attended recent enhanced Community Pathway (ECP) meeting, and was advised ECP will remain under development for the next 2 years. She believes service-users have the opportunity here to influence availability of supplementary services

Louise Marks

LM distributes new Suffolk Family Carer leaflets, and poster for Waveney WMHD 5/10 11 -3

LM recently attended pre-consultation for East CCG Yarmouth & Waveney. **LM** feels there is ample opportunity for groups to feed in their ideas. Group discussion on whether there will be similar opportunity for Ipswich – **RS** believes the budget for East Ipswich has already been allocated.

Action Point – LM to invite Community Engagement Officer for E Ipswich to Vasp.

WMHD – DG

DG distributes poster for WMHD event @Jimmy's Farm ("Sowing the seeds for Well-being") 5/10 10-2. There are numerous events on offer (all under cover) with funding for children to enter the farm & nature trail. Transport also provided.

Contact Punna.athwall@nsft.nhs.uk

There will be a multi-Vasp stand – **DG** asks group for volunteers to man the stand please. **DG** also asks for leaflets to be sent to him in advance at Ipswich Library. Group discussion on Ipswich Vasp event including possibility of having a stand at Sainsburys in town centre. Also discussed need for a "draw" other than MH.

Action Points – LM to investigate with Sainsburys and also Headway regarding "bring your dog" scheme.

Group agrees that Ipswich event will take place of next Vasp meeting – Thursday 3rd October 10-12.

David Grimmer

DG updates group with the news that Lorna Small has now handed her role (Personal Budgets) over to Steven Emmerson. **DG** will invite Steven to attend our Vasp in future.

Later corrected by Lorna Small herself who has confirmed she is still in role

DG reminds group of his forthcoming parachute jump to support SFC & SUF.

Spectators welcome. **DG** will recirculate details. www.justgiving.com/david-grimmer

DG also advises that "Books on Prescription" are now all in stock with launch in October

Next Meeting Thursday 3rd October 10-12 Venue to be confirmed for WMHD

