

NOTES of the VASP meeting on 6th January

Held at Mid Suffolk District Council offices 1- 3 pm

Please note that these are not full minutes, but will hopefully give an idea of topics discussed at the meeting

Present:

SP	Sue Parker	Chair
NM	Nigel Moyes	SUF, ImROC
DW	Dawn William	Suffolk MIND
LA	Linda Attwood	Waves, Healthwatch
WS	Wendy Shepherd	SNAP
IT	Irene Tibbenham	Friends of Thornham Walk
JC	Julia Carr	Suffolk VASP
HG	Hilary Green	Age UK
MS	Mark Strickland	Beyond the Wall
KR	Karen Ruth	Beyond the Wall
CR	Caroline Woodger	NSFT Link Worker
NB	Nigel Brett	MSDC Communities Officer
PJ	Peta Jones	MSDC/Babergh Safer Communities
MB	Dr Michael Bamford	H & WB and Babergh DC
EM	Dr. Emma Marriott	NSFT CMAS lead
	Siobhan Hemmett	PCSO Mental Health
	Sally Corker	Be Inspired

Apologies:

Liz Roper
Guenever Pachent
Suzanne Britton
Bec Jasper
Elizabeth Storer
Barbara Bilston
Carole Thain
Janet Jones
Gareth Moir
Bev Stearn
Kirk Brown
Jilly Vince

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Speaker PCSO Siobhan Hemmett.

Siobhan explained her role across West Suffolk and how it is evolving. She currently has a caseload of 70. Her role is part of a pilot operation at the moment, but there are real hopes that this may be consolidated in 2015. ***NB Siobhan will be proving a summary of her talk which will then be mailed out to VASP members***

3. Events and Initiatives

SP was able to say that the VASP stand is now in Hadleigh Library for about two weeks, it will then be moved to Stowmarket Library. Sue will inform members of the Stowmarket dates asap so that members who wish to "man" the stand may be allocated time slots.

There will be another Dementia Event in Hadleigh Pool and Leisure on 20th February and the VASP stand plus SP will be there.

JC told the group that there is to be a launch/discussion event at Newmarket at 10am on 4th February to discuss the possibility of a West Suffolk VASP in place of Bury/Haverhill/Brandon VASPs.

SP will attend for Mid Suffolk VASP.

4. Mid Suffolk VASP Budget

SP handed out copies of the latest figures on expenditure for MS VASP. It was seen that at this moment there is an underspend on admin/support hours due to ill health for SB and her family. It was suggested that it might be appropriate for this years' grant to be for less than £2000 as there will otherwise be a "profit". SP will take this further with MSDC.

5. AOB and Members Updates.

EM was able to report that the CMAS, (Community Memory Assessment Team), for Ipswich and East Suffolk, now has a full complement of nurses and is progressing with the service.

LA is involved as a peer support worker with NSFT.

MB will have a full report from the H & WB Service in March

HG said that AGE UK Suffolk is waiting to hear if they have funding for the new year.

NM reported that SUF had a successful event that focussed on Human Rights Day.

CW reported on the very popular "Stress Reduction" courses from The Wellbeing Service. These are available by self referral.

NB Spoke of the Dementia Friendly Town project in Hadleigh. This is led by Tracey Loyndz, CEO of South Suffolk Leisure and as she also runs Sudbury Pool and Leisure centre this could lead to a similar initiative for Sudbury.

DW gave an update on the very successful (free) Peer support Course that they run.

SP told of another initiative from MH Nurse training at UCS, the dept is now working on a MH Module for trainee paramedics.

WS is still waiting to hear if SNAP will have any funding as their current fund ceases in March. She also confirmed that The Befriending Service has to stop functioning at the end of January.

SC said that Be Inspired is working across Suffolk and trying to reach isolated rural areas.

IT gave updates on Thornham Walks and as MSDC will no longer be involved after the end of March, there are many issues to be resolved with the Thornham Estate. They hope to be producing some new leaflets soon that promote the benefits of outdoor activities at Thornham, eg dementia and walking.

KR and MS told of transport problems in their area that are leading to Beyond The Wall using its own transport to help people get to essential services. They are not funded for this and it is using up their resources.

SP gave news of an organisation that meets at The Mix Stowmarket. They are a support group for parents with children who have MH issues. They meet once a month and the lead is looking for funding for training for peer support (youth) work.

SP has sent some suggestions and members gave other ideas such as Suffolk Community Foundation, Stowmarket Rotary Club, Tim Passmore etc. SP will pass this advice to Bec Jasper, the lead.

Next meeting:- Thursday February 5th, Speaker is Jill Coleman from Voiceabilty.