

Minutes of Ipswich VASP Monthly Meeting 3rd January 2013

Attendees:- Chair – Louise Marks – Suffolk Family Carers, **Vice Chair** David Grimmer – Suffolk Libraries, Jill Coleman – Voiceability, Guenever Pachent – Governor NSFT, Richard Squirrell - Service-User, Vron Deri – NSFT, Tracy Priestly – Together, Linda Brown – Julian Support, Julia Carr – Vasp Co-Ordinator, Paul Maguire – OCD Limits

Minutes - Cathie Lee **Apologies:-** Lorna Small

The meeting began with everyone briefly introducing themselves, and a

Review of last month's minutes as follows:-

Discussion around recent PD consultation – **Action Point GP will find out timescale for Suffolk / Norfolk & advise both Ipswich Vasp & Julia Carr for Main Vasp**

GP advises that the Trust has charitable funds available for which she believes the community well-being groups may be eligible, and for which they currently do not receive enough bids. These are benefactors with specific areas of interest – leaflets pending. **LM** advises that Suffolk Foundation also good potential source of funding for these groups as they have more than 1 “pot” to allocated money on. **DG** also advises that Comic Relief also may also have surplus funding as they do not receive sufficient bids from Mental Health groups. **DG** also advises that Debbie White saw true value of small niche groups and lends her support to Vasp in supporting them. **Action point – DG to invite Sue Clemence from ICVS to present on available funding**

LM has copy of presentation from Healthwatch – copies available. **Action Point DG is on committee for communication / feedback & will update group on this at our next meeting**

Discussion around the need for a statutory representative from SCC at our monthly Vasp meetings. **Action Points-The group values input from Lorna Small & will ask her to present to group on results of pilot merge PBR & PB. In acknowledgement that LS cannot always attend our meetings, Julia Carr will liaise Anna Mcredie ? (Director of PB) to facilitate another SCC attendee as well. LM to contact IBC (Lois Seddon) to invite them to attend too**

RS raises issue of Universal Credit and concerns how families will manage on a reduced income which is no longer paid direct to their landlord. **Action Point LM suggests inviting representative from Financial Inclusion Service to present as they will do this for free for min group size (circa 12 people). Discussion around best topics, and it is agreed that LM will try and book 2 days (DG volunteers Library space 60 @ Ipswich & 40 @ Bury) with FIS – 1 Universal Credit (with emphasis on housing) & the other on PIP (Old DLA). Vasp members will then be able to book on to these sessions for free.**

Action Points – DG to email CL copy of Tim Scott's presentation on Universal Credit for her to circulate to Vasp

DG to re-invite SNAP/CARA to attend Vasp as they have specific details relating to housing

Agenda Items:-

- i) Chair & Vice Chair Elections
- ii) Review of Vasp Aims & Objectives
- iii) GP Update on Forthcoming Dates
- iv) Jill Coleman – Advocacy
- v) Julia Carr – Vasp Update
- vi) DG – Update

i) Chair & Vice-Chair elections

Louise Marks & David Grimmer are formally re-elected for the year (through nomination & "seconding" – unchallenged.

ii) Review of Vasp Aims & Objectives

Discussion around 1 page document that we believe to be those for the original Main Vasp (copy attached). Consensus that these need to be reviewed on local basis & Julia Carr will liaise with Hazel Pidsley (Chair Main Vasp) for review too. **CL** has attached all she can find which includes 2 further historic documents with details of Vasp terms of reference.

Discussion around Ipswich Vasp priorities for the year & initial outline agreement to the following:-

PD

Alcohol & Substance Abuse

World Mental Health Day / Suffolk Health & Well-Being month

Further Investigate possibility of obtaining Charitable status & resultant accessibility to new funding streams

Secure funding to support localised admin support

Broadening our reach – inviting new members such as SCC Councillors and IBC

Compile case studies in contrast to current media messages supporting benefit cuts

Action Point – All – Please feedback you ideas / suggestions to Louise before 5th February so we can formalise agreement at next months meeting.

iii) GP – Forthcoming Dates

GP recommends "Festive Viewing of Remnants" exhibition (history of St Audrey's & St Clements) @ Abbots Hall adjacent to Museum of East Anglian Life – Funded by Comic Relief and running until the end of Feb. Contact details staudrysproject@gmail.com & www.staudrysproject.wordpress.com. Other meetings are:-

Board of Governors Public Meeting@ St Clements – 9th January 1.30 – 4.30. Agenda shown.

"Safeguarding Adults" 17th January – sold out but there is reserve list

Spirituality Strategy launch 14th Feb @Trinity Park 10-4. Booking available through Trust website

iv) Jill Coleman – Advocacy Clinic Day

Ipswich Library Wed 23rd Jan 12-4. The 3 Community Development Workers, Advocates (including Young) and Judy Long (DAB) will attend with a view to addressing concerns/ issues of those on the waiting list for Advocacy. **JC** advises they have invited everyone on the list under an appointment booking system; however, may be able to facilitate drop-ins depending on initial level of demand.

DG offers to man a stand for Vasp at the event – **Action Point – All – please hand your organisation leaflets in to Library main counter for David's attention**

v) Julia Carr – Vasp Update

Julia Carr advises group that she is now back in role as Vasp Co-Ordinator, working 17.5 hours a week.

Julia advises the group that she views the Online Hub (currently out of service) as a priority to facilitate strong communication streams across the Vasp network.

She is also compiling a Vasp calendar for the year ahead to ensure people are kept informed.

Julia also advises that Newmarket Vasp is now dormant but she is reviewing this as a priority as believes such a cross-border locality will have specific needs. **DG** advises there is an Orbit housing Meeting in the area – **DG** will send her details so she can attend if possible.

Julia also advises that Thetford Vasp, although initially vibrant, has sadly now also been disbanded. Julia is also looking possibility of admin support for all locality Vasps as she believes this can play a key role in a group's survival.

Unfortunately, Julia's post is not funded for the Gt Yarmouth & Waveney area, but will still endeavour to attend as the Group is a Vasp in principal and she is committed to it. **DG** volunteers to attend in her absence at the next meeting 15th Jan.

Action point:- All Julia puts request out to all Vasp members for any feedback please—vasp@volunteercentre.co.uk

vi) DG – Update

DG shares SUF newsletter (Jan 2013) with group, which details forthcoming events:-

“Words that Scare Us” 29/1 11-1 @Red Gables, Stowmarket

“Feedback on future of Social drop-Ins” 11/2 10.30-12.30 @Red Gables.

DG also advises that Jane Davy from SUF, together with other parties, is facilitating a “World Mental Health Day” planning event 30/1 10-1 @Corner House, Rushmere Road, Ipswich. **DG** is attending

Group discussion on ideas for WMHD includes “pat dogs”

DG advises that, following the Mental Health at Work week last summer, a Core Group has been established to ensure a successful legacy. Members include **DG**, Garrie Parker from Suffolk Family Carers, Suffolk Mind, Suffolk Libraries and Council Representatives. **DG** states that this is the first Mental Health policy at work of its kind for a council, and has Mark Bees' support

A.O.B

i) **RS** asks if someone from Clinical Commissioning Group could attend a future meeting. **Julia Carr** advises this is something she is already looking in to

iii) **RS** states that he attends old “Community Reference Group” (he is unsure of new name) for Ipswich East which meets every 6 weeks. **RS** happy to attend as rep for Vasp in future, and will bring more information to the group next month.

ii) **GP** raises issue of positioning of Vasp alongside SUF & Helathwatch. **JC** advises she attends scrutiny group where possible, & agrees to also represent Vasp when she attends in future. **GP** may also attend too.

Next Meeting 10-12 @ [Suffolk Family Carers - Home](#)