

Minutes of the VASP meeting of 13th June

Held at MSDC offices, 1pm to 3pm

Present:

WS	Wendy Shepherd	SNAP and Chair
GH	Gary Hazelden	NSFT
JD	Jane Davey	SUF
GF	Glennys Francis	SAFEcic
NM	Nigel Moyes	SUF
BS	Bev Stearn	Suffolk Family Carers
CC	Christine Cantwell	Phoenix Counselling
LA	Linda Attwood	SUF
LR	Liz Roper	Suffolk Coalition of Disabled People
GM	Gareth Moir	SCC CYPS
SB	Suzanne Britton	MAP/Green Gables/VASP - minutes

Apologies:

Sue Parker
Barbara Bilston
Sally Corker
Karen Jackson
Lorna Small
Guenever Pachent
Kathleen Ben Rhaba

1. Welcome & apologies

Standing in for SP, as Chair, WS welcomed those present and read out the apologies.

2. May minutes and matters arising

GM reported that Kat Saunders will soon set up a drop in facility in Childer Road, Stowmarket, to provide an outreach clinic.

3. Guest Speaker: Glennys Francis - SAFEcic

www.safecic.co.uk

Glennys has been Head Office and Adult Safeguarding Manager for 18 months and is an Associate Training for the Alzheimer's Society. Rosie Carter is Managing Director and Child Safeguarding Manager.

SAFEcic offers a comprehensive safeguarding service providing:

- Training online or face to face
- Risk assessment

- DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks (which replaces the old CRB system)

Glennys emphasised that whistleblowing is vital for safeguarding. It is important to refer cases of abuse, even if they happened 10 years ago. It could be the missing link of a jigsaw puzzle and the perpetrator could still be abusing.

If someone discloses an incident, it is necessary to pass it on to a safeguarding representative.

There are many problems with the internet and mobile phones. There is a lot of cyber bullying/texting, not only children but also vulnerable adults.

The Care and Support Bill will improve safeguarding for vulnerable people.

When recruiting staff or volunteers, it is important to mention the need for a DBS check in the process (if applicable), i.e. to put in the recruitment policy that the applicant will show their DBS certificate, to the appropriate person in a timely manner.

SAFEcic is an umbrella body and as such used to get a copy of CRB checks. From 17th June, no-one will know what is on the check, except for the applicant. Staff have to consent to show the certificate to their employer.

The DBS does not offer a portable system. The applicant has to sign up to the system and this costs £13 per year (Free for volunteers). With their permission, the employer can go online and type up the certificate number and the applicant's date of birth, to check if that person has committed an offence since the issue of the DBS certificate.

Some spent convictions will now be removed from the new DBS certificates.

Under CRB, the umbrella body would receive a brown envelope from the police (when applicable), with additional information about a particular individual, which could then be communicated to the employer. Under DBS, this won't happen anymore.

What happens if a member of staff has a positive DBS? If the conviction is unspent but doesn't relate to the job, then it will be up to the employer as to whether or not this is taken into consideration.

If a job requires a DBS check, it must appear in the advert – this is a legal requirement.

Self-employed people cannot DBS themselves, but if they go into a school, for example, the school can carry out a DBS check if the person is eligible. What does 'supervised' mean, for instance, does it include taking a child to the toilet? There are a lot of grey areas.

The cost of a DBS check varies SAFE charges £56 for an enhanced check, £38 for a standard and £12 for a volunteer. This includes all processing and the support of the DBS team.

Young people under 16 cannot have a DBS check, even though some of them, e.g. martial arts practitioners, can start coaching at 15.

4. Chair for 2013/2014

The Forum agreed that Sue is a fantastic Chair and as she wishes to continue, Wendy proposed that she be elected chair for 2013/2014 and this was seconded by Glennys.

There was a discussion as to whether Sue needed a Deputy. Wendy suggested that this matter be referred to a later meeting.

5 August meeting

It was unanimously decided that an August meeting was not needed.

6. Events update

- The planning of Thornham Walks Events on 28th July is progressing well and there are still spaces available if any other organisation would like a stand.
- Mid Suffolk VASP will be at Stowmarket Football Club for 'A new approach to Supporting Adults' Information and Networking Event on Wednesday 26th June 2013 1.30 to 4.00 p.m This is a free event.
Suffolk County Council's Adult and Community Services is redesigning how local people are offered the support that they need. If your group or organisation operates or provides a service within Stowmarket, then this is an ideal opportunity for you to showcase what you do and talk with other VCS organisations, the social work teams, health colleagues and local council staff and councillors. Geraldine Dougall
e:geraldine.dougall@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk or t: 01449 612486.
- On 5th July, there will be a joint carer event at West Suffolk College. SP would like support on the day from VASP members. Please contact her if you are able to help out.
- Karen Jackson from MIND asks that we remind the forum of their Peer Support Network groups.

7. Members' update and AOB

a) Gary Hazelden, Partnership Lead Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, introduced himself to the meeting. He reported that Aiden Thomas, Chief Executive of NSFT, has resigned. A new CEO probably won't be appointed until the end of the year.

Gary's task is to work with voluntary organisation. So far, partnerships include work with Suffolk Family Carers, Suffolk Wellbeing and Research facilities.

There will be 3 events in Suffolk, after the summer holidays, looking at how NSFT can development partnerships with the voluntary sector. Three such engagement events have taken place in Norwich, Great Yarmouth and Kings Lynn.

The framework is based on working with services users and providers. NSFT want the best design for service users, and will be asking for expressions of interest in this work. The Trust will be mapping community groups to identify which services can be provided, for example, to reduce the number of admission to mental health wards.

b) Glennys has given up smoking, partly as a result of the Live Well Suffolk talk and because her granddaughter told her she should.

c) Jane Davey informed the forum of the event taking place in Ipswich Library on 28th June - from 11am – 3pm at the Limes Hotel, 99 High Street, Needham Market, Suffolk IP6 8DQ to 'hear about the Trust's new Service User Involvement Strategy, share your thoughts on service user partnership working and discuss how you can get more involved'

In Norfolk, user groups come under the NSFT umbrella, whereas in Suffolk, we have SUF.

Suffolk County Council are organising 3 conferences the next one is in Kesgrave on 27th June from 9 to 12.30.

Local care provision is now more co-terminus with the CCG's.

d) Nigel said that SCC are still waiting for a speaker for the later life event run by SCC.

CCG will hold a public event at Trinity Park.

On 12/6, the Healthwatch launch had taken place and Nigel had spoken. The feedback was good.

e) Linda said that the PD group would be opening its doors from 10 till 4pm on Tuesdays, from the last week in July.

In Bury, doors will be open from 10 till 4pm from 7th August. There is room for 20 people.

f) Bev, SFC, is still running training programmes Caring with Confidence, Family Carers programme. Bev wanted to clarify that their 1-1 support continues. She reminded all that the recovery event on 18th June is now full. They have a forum meeting on 5th July.

g) Wendy from SNAP – the service continues to be really busy and is holding a waiting list. SNAP now have 2 new drop-in's, one in Babergh District Council offices 2nd Wednesday of the month 9.30 – 12.30 and one in Mid Suffolk District Council offices on the third Thursday of the month 2.00 – 4.00.

Date of next meeting: July in the Dove Room.