

Minutes of the Mid Suffolk VASP (MSVASP) meeting of 7th January 2014

Held at MSDC offices, 1pm to 3pm

Present:

SP	Sue Parker	MSVASP Chair
WS	Wendy Shepherd	SNAP
GF	Glennys Francis	SAFEcic/Alzheimers Society
LH	Laura Harvey	Open Road
DK	Diana Kearsley	MSDC Councillor
RS	Ravi Seenan	NSFT
NM	Nigel Moyes	SUF
NB	Nigel Brett	MSDC
MS	Mark Strickland	Beyond the Wall (BTW)
KR	Karen Ruth	BTW
CT	Carol Thain	Suffolk Mind
KJ	Karen Jackson	Suffolk Mind
LR	Liz Roper	Green Gables Mental Wellbeing
LA	Linda Attwood	SUF/Healthwatch/Wave
CG	Carolyn Gidney	Papworth Trust
GP	Guenever Pachent	NSFT (Governor)
JJ	Jason Joseph	SCC Mental Health Commissioner
CR	Charlotte Rogers	Student Social Worker at NSFT
SW	Samantha Wright	Student Social Worker at NSFT
SB	Suzanne Britton	MSVASP/Green Gables Mental Wellbeing

Apologies:

Michael Bamford
Barbara Bilston
Sally Corker
Nichola Wright
Bev Stearn
Hilary Green
Julia Carr
Jane Davey
Michaela Walker

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Ravi Seenan – Equality and Engagement Manager at NSFT

Ravi has been a Mental Health Nurse and lecturer. His job is to support the Trust to embed equality by engaging with the community and supporting staff and service users. His role is to ensure the trust as employer isn't discriminating against marginal groups, such as BME, disability, LGBT, etc..

What can NSFT do to retrain and sustain people within the organisation.

Ravi covers Suffolk and Norfolk. To assist such a wide area he is looking to recruit Equality Champions with the Trust by engaging with networks such as LGBT.

A recent survey has been carried out. This is necessary to set up objectives which NSFT have a duty to do. Feedback from groups and community helps to draw up these objectives. The community needs to be involved when designing services.

Ravi wants to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment for marginal groups.

It is important that there is an equality champion present in each team. Peter Hayles is Membership and Engagement Officer.

SP wanted Ravi to contact VASP for if information is needed.

Tara Brown, Modern Matron of Woodlands is starting a dual diagnosis group.

Ravi has links with the probation service.

SP mentioned the North Essex Outreach who go out to Suffolk to reach the 'unreachable'. SP said Healthwatch has a BME and diversity group.

Ravi commented on the term "hard to reach" NSFT needs to work harder to reach out to marginalised people.

LA mentioned discrimination against people with PD. They are ignored in hospital. Police are automatically sent round in crisis situations. LA also mentioned KUF training.

Ravi said that Trust needed to go beyond what the Equality Act says.

NB: The biggest ethnic group in Mid Suffolk is gypsy and travellers in the north of the district.

Ravi is looking at training people within their communities as representative of the groups. Voiceability has made DVDs on reaching smaller groups. Geoff Bemrose hosts the Suffolk Advocacy Forum.

GP: How well does the Trust perform on equality e.g. they have a Stonewall award. Ravi said feedback is mixed from staff. Some feel they are not supported.

There is a new project called Internal Challenge, for education and support mainly. How can we challenge and educate and support staff? They need to know how their attitudes affect others.

LGBT network is doing well.

LA: service users are wary about giving feedback. SUF representatives cannot gain access to wards to speak to service users on behalf of SUF.

3. Caroline Gidney – Papworth Trust.

There is a budget for carers to have a break, e.g. a week away or paying for art classes. Also included are requests for orthopaedic equipment (if service user sleeps better, so will the carer), gardeners, cleaners. The funding is from Suffolk County Council and will run until March 2015. Papworth Trust is working in partnership with Suffolk Family Carers.

Carolyn is trying to reach "hard to reach" groups such as BME and other marginalised groups. The grant is either £150 or £250. Payment covers a year and a carer can reapply after that.

Carolyn circulated a handout listing the criteria for receiving a grant.

Carolyn speaks to applicant and sends info to SFC who will then contact the client. She will keep in contact with the carer to monitor the grant. The grant is meant as preventative rather than crisis intervention.

GP: where do referrals come from?

CG: So far, from workers at West Suffolk Hospital and Customer First. No referrals have been made by GPs.

The problem is that many people don't identify themselves as carers. It is estimated that there are 90000 carers of which 14000 are registered with SFC

The service is Suffolk-Wide.

KJ asked if the process is transparent. CG confirmed that a scoring system is used. She talks to the carers initially by SFC allocate the funding.

CG is happy to be contacted by VASP members.

Social teams will take over the work next year. GP queried whether this included NSFT teams as well.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The Business Plan is ready and the bid will be handed over to Gill after the meeting.

Housing Survey. SP is waiting for Gill Cook to send a copy of the survey.

LA: There is no update on the issue of recording calls to AAT. GP said it was due to start in January.

5. Events 2014

The display stand is at Hadleigh library for the whole month, as part of their "beat the winter blues" campaign.

Events will be planned for North Mid Suffolk and Hartismere, as well as joint events with the Rural Coffee caravan and the Age UK golden age fairs.

GP said that the funding received by MSVASP makes a difference to the quality of presence at events and outreach. GP said that other VASPS don't have so many events.

DK: What about Health Centres for outreach work – Eye & Botesdale may be interested.

SB suggested that mental wellbeing should be promoted in schools.

SP said that teaching staff are too busy and that very few school reps were present at the Hadleigh conference.

Beyond the wall – KR spoke about the transition project which will run for two years with funding from Suffolk Foundation. Groups of ten individuals attend activities at Thornham. The project has been carried out with the Bridge School. Ipswich and Warren Heath School, Lowestoft and Riverwalk, Bury St. Edmunds

KR suggested that a VASP rep could attend a project. Parents also visit.

SP can tailor stand to represent Suffolk VASP.

6. AOB + member updates

NM: SUF have new premises at Kesgrave and are moving on 14th January Their newsletter is out. They have put in a bid for Time To Change funding, to work in schools.

There will be a new website, a new member of staff will create it.

SUF funding runs out this year and Jane Davey is attempting to get commissioning/

LH a new Open Road (OR) leaflet has been printed. The service covers Bury, Sudbury, Newmarket, Haverhill and Mildenhall. Open Road is involved in the dual diagnosis forum.

NSFT staff have to undergo one day training in DD.

OR having trouble getting referrals for GP but they are in contact with link workers.

SP said dialogue with GPs needs to be started.

GP: Survey will be sent out to SUs and carers regarding equality. Ravi will send the trust leaflet to SP for display stand.

LA: attended AAT appointment with a service user.

GF: a service user does not need a diagnosis for Alzheimer's Society to send a support worker. This will get ball rolling.

KR: re: Beyond the Wall. There will be lunch club at Thornham in partnership with Gavin Hodges from Age UK. She will find out what services are needed.

CT: St. Mary's on the Quay in Ipswich will become a Heritage Wellbeing Centre from middle of February. This has been developed with Lottery Funding.

CJ : Stow High School are presenting a play about Mental Health at JP Centre on Friday 17th January. CJ also spoke about Peer Support Network tasters. There will also be an eight-week course run in the evening.

Suffolk Mind Wellbeing Foundation Course is a completely FREE to attend course which will help people to make changes which will better support their emotional health and mental wellbeing. The skills learnt should enable people to support others. Further information on Suffolk Mind Website

DK – a new police training package has been launched nationally but is being designed in Suffolk. DK sits on panel.

GP – Trust has offered to help.

SP – we need voluntary organisation to participate in this project so police know about the services. For instance, there are not enough Mental Health beds available, People with mental ill health end up in police cells.

GP: David Skevington, Acting Assistant Commissioner is a partner governor of the Trust.

NB – The local PCSO is co-chair of Sudbury VASP. NB wears mental health hat at MSDC and is the other co-chair. His other part of his post is working in communities – ten workers cover 200 communities in Mid Suffolk.

NB will act as a contact point for VASP members.

NB suggested forum members approach surgeries to get GPs to encourage wellbeing.

GF will be speak to MSVASP about dementia awareness training in March

GP was asked if she would kindly talk about the NSFT governing body at a future meeting. She agreed.

*Date of next meeting: Thursday 6th February 2014 in the **LECTURE THEATRE***