

## MINUTES OF THE MID SUFFOLK VASP (MSVASP) MEETING ON 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014

Held at MSDC Council Offices 1 – 3pm

### **Present:**

Sue Parker:	Chair of MSVASP
Pearly Gupta	Speaker – Public Health Suffolk
Wendy Shepherd	SNAP
Ann Fitch	Beyond The Wall
Mark Strickland	Beyond The Wall
Linda Attwood	SUF, Healthwatch Suffolk, Waves and SUF
Vanessa Brenchley	Green Gables Wellbeing, Family Food Fridays
Charlotte Seddon	Green Gables Wellbeing, Family Food Fridays
Elizabeth Storer,	Healthwatch Suffolk
Gill Jones	Healthwatch Suffolk
Hilary Green	Age UK Suffolk
Glennys Francis	Alzheimer's Society/SAFEcic
Laura Harvey	Open Road
Nicola Wright	Papworth Trust Workwise
Beverley Stearn	Suffolk Family Carers
Guenever Pachent	NSFT (Governor)
Julia Carr	VASP Co-ordinator
Suzanne Britton	MSVASP – minutes
Gareth Moir	Suffolk County Council ICYP
Dee Garrett	SUF

### **Apologies:**

Janis Engstrom  
Nigel Brett  
Nigel Moyes  
Liz Roper  
Michael Bamford  
Carolyn Gidney  
Barbara Bilston  
Sally Corker  
Irene Tibbenham

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

### **2. Speaker - Pearly Gupta – Public Health Suffolk (PHS)**

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/public-health/>

Pearly circulated a flow chart explaining the staff structure at PHS and a number of the roles therein.

There are three teams run by Tessa Lingfield, Director of Public Health. The PHS now operates under Suffolk County Council but the funding from the Department of Health is ringfenced until 2016. After that, the grant will go directly to Suffolk County Council who will decide on how and where it is spent.

So far the PHS budget is underspent but now that the service covers Waveney, additional costs have to be covered.

PHS commission services such as CRI/Open Road and LiveWell Suffolk and work closely with the Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust.

PHS have a pot of money for emergency services but the provider has to apply. PHS monitor contractors.

SP: Suffolk Mind provide dementia counselling and a 24/7 dementia helpline

PG: PHS don't commission the helpline but do have an influence on what is done but can't insist that it is done.

PHS have a seat on the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board and the CCG. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for mental health is at planning stage.

NW: NSFT need to consult those who have overcome mental health problems.

LA: service user has to be under an Integrated Delivery Team to get help with travel costs to events, not if user is only under their GP.

SP: Attending meetings and events is therapeutic for people with mental ill health.

PG: NSFT have looked at the PHS Substance Misuse Forum and want to participate but PHS will help the Trust to set up their own recovery forum and work jointly with them. There is a forum for Children and Young People and one for Adults. There is also one for Dual Diagnosis.

Substance Abuse group – members help each other. They run a recovery fun day.

SP: Tara Brown, Modern Matron at Woodlands has re-launched the Dual Diagnosis Forum. The next meeting is on 24<sup>th</sup> February. Sue invited Pearly.

PG: there are 600 brothels in Suffolk and 900 in Norfolk, which has made the substance problem invisible. Young people and trafficked sex workers abuse drugs and there general denial in Suffolk as to the size of the problem. The number of referrals to Survivors in Transit has increased greatly over the last few years.

### **3. January minutes and matters arising**

GF said that she will not be **training** forum members on Dementia at the next meeting. It is an awareness session. Glennys ask for amended minutes to be sent to her. She encouraged invitations to the meeting to go out to as many people as possible. She said that after the awareness session, members can enrol on a dementia champion course.

SP distributed leaflets for carers' grants on behalf of Carolyn Gidney of Papworth ICare.

DG: She had apologised for not attending the January meeting but this was not in the minutes.

SP still waiting to hear from MSDC re the grant application

### **4. Events**

- a) SP reported that the stand had been on display in Hadleigh Library for 4 weeks. Most of the leaflets taken were about autism.

GM: there is a problem with getting autism diagnosed as well as accessing support.

SP: Parents who care for autistic children should be encouraged to join SFC

- b) SP has spoken to Kirk Brown with a view to displaying the VASP stand at Eye Surgery.

HG: Jules Harper is a Dementia Link Worker at that surgery.

GM has information pack for the display.

GF said that Hartismere is a good venue for a display. The reception area is large and a number of organisations are based there, such as the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

- c) 27/2: SFC Forum for Dementia Carers to be held in Ipswich

- d) 28/2: Healthwatch AGM

- e) SP will plan organise another event at ASDA Stowmarket. SB suggested Morrisons Hadleigh.

- f) SB suggested organising an outing with the Rural Coffee Caravan.

- g) SP said that she would contact Debenham Leisure Centre.

## 5. AOB and members' updates

GF: There will be a SAFE Internet launch on 11<sup>th</sup> February in Partnership with UCS, at the college. At that event, a new website for families will be launched with support from Suffolk Police. [www.EZsafe.co.uk](http://www.EZsafe.co.uk). It will cover such topics as cyber bullying and sexting.

GP: re: policing and mental health. The NSFT Board of Governors will hold two additional meetings this year. The first one will be in Norwich on 5<sup>th</sup> March and the second one will be at Trinity Park, Ipswich on 19<sup>th</sup> September. A dialogue between the Trust and emergency services has already begun with, for example, the Ambulance Service offering additional provision to Mental Health patients.

LA: Waves now have a long waiting list for their weekly drop-in for people with a Borderline Personality Disorder diagnosis. SP asked Linda email information on The Waves service to her for dissemination.

JC: Please send her information on issues/events outside Mid Suffolk and Babergh for dissemination to other VASPs.

DG: SUF now have a Facebook page and new premises in Kesgrave, though IT is still based at St. Clements.

GM: More events need to happen in Stowmarket. SB mentioned Red Gables as a venue.

SB: For members working with young children. Family Food Fridays will start again at Red Gables on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb and will run for 6 weeks.

NW: It would be helpful to have the services of a mental health nutritionist.

WS: SNAP funding has been extended to March 2015.

DG: Encouraged members to promote the NSFT Quality Questionnaire. She spoke of the St Audreys project at the Museum of East Anglian Life and the exhibition of artist Juliet Lockart.

SP: Please forward any useful information or comments to her to take to the next VASP chairs' meeting.

*Date of next meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1pm to 3pm in the **Lecture Room** at MSDC.*