

Minutes of the VASP meeting on 4th November 2014

Held at Mid Suffolk District Council offices 1- 3 pm

Present:

SP	Sue Parker	Chair
NM	Nigel Moyes	SUF, ImROC
SB	Suzanne Britton	VASP
LA	Linda Attwood	Waves, Healthwatch
ES	Elizabeth Storer	Healthwatch
WS	Wendy Shepherd	SNAP
IT	Irene Tibbenham	Friends of Thornham Walk
BS	Bev Stearn	Suffolk Family Carers
JC	Julia Carr	Suffolk VASP
HG	Hilary Green	Age UK
MS	Mark	Beyond the Wall
KR	Karen Ruth	Beyond the Wall
JJ	Janet Jones	Richmond Fellowship Stowmarket
SM	Suzanne Mildinhall	Workwise/Papworth Trust

Apologies:

Liz Roper
Nigel Brett
Guenever Pachent
Dr Michael Bamford
Siobhan Hemmett
Barbara Bilston
Carole Thain
Denise Askew
Janis Engstrom

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Speaker

PCSO Siobhan Hemmett was unable to attend the meeting and may be present on 4th December to speak about Mental Health and Policing.

3. Minutes of October meeting and matters arising

Emma Marriott will be invited back in 2015 to update on new Memory Service.

4. Events and Initiatives

a) Jimmy's Farm event in October was very successful. JC handed out 500 bags of information. She estimated that 1000 people had visited. Police triage car was present with Inspector Galley and Siobhan Hemmett. LA mentioned that the food was expensive but drinks were free. NM said the event costs were high in terms of money and time. JC said that if it was to happen again, additional funding would be required. Jimmy's Farm did not charge but PA system and acts had to be paid for. Previously CSV and a building society had funded but money was not forthcoming this year.

b) UCS event. SP thanked LA for her help on the day. SP spoke to student nurses. The event was very successful. Suffolk Wellbeing was there. David Jay's film 'Behind the Curtain' was premiered and people were waiting to watch it. The video is on the SUF website.

<http://www.suffolkuserforum.co.uk/behind%20the%20curtains.asp>

VASP has good links with UCS. Service users will be involved in MHN interviews. The Director of Nursing attended and looked around.

c) SUF AGM – Michael Scott, Chief Executive of NSFT attended, as well as Ian Young, Jason Joseph and Guenever Pachent.

The speaker was Mike Adams, OBE, from Essex Association of Disabled People. His talk was very inspirational. 40-45 people attended, included Cllr Michael Bamford.

Upcoming events

- a) Hadleigh – Friday 14th November – Dementia event at Leisure Centre
- b) Event on Wednesday 26th November at Portman Road. JC is developing links with Time 2 Change. A partnership day will be organised to include all VASP chairs and volunteers.
- c) 24th November, JC and SP speaking to Stowmarket Rotary Club. SP will prepare 30 information packs for Rotary members.

Suggested events

- a) There will be no ASDA event in 2014. There will be one early 2015 in conjunction with David Grimmer's 'Beat the Winter Blues' campaign.
- b) VASP stand.
 - a. SP will leave the stand at Hadleigh Library for first 2 weeks of January and
 - b. Stowmarket Library for 2nd 2 weeks of January
 - c. ES suggested MSDC offices on a Monday when there is more footfall.
 - d. Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre at Spring half term
- c) Rural Coffee Caravan visits. SP to check leaflet stocks with them
- d) Church coffee mornings.
- e) Good neighbour schemes
- f) NSFT groups. SP will find out dates and venues.

SP will circulate list of events/suggested events

KR can promote VASP in Stradbroke Library and Leisure Centre.

5. Any Other Business

SP will share Mid Suffolk VASP budget with members at next meeting.

SP would like a tablecloth printed with VASP log etc for the display stand. SM will contact SP as it could be made at Workwise.

SP asked members what the 2015 theme should be. Suggestions were made:

Loneliness

Autism. Colm McGhee is the contact for NSFT

SM SCC budgets now for 16-25 year olds support: SEND.

Members' Update

- IT 'Behind the Curtain' should be put on YouTube. NM will speak to SUF staff.
- KM She has produced a newsletter for Beyond the Wall. It works better than leaflets.
- HG Suggested putting dates on leaflets.
- NM SUF Bury Office is now closed.
ImROC is ongoing. There will be a peer open day on 21/11 at Kesgrave.
Suffolk Dual Diagnosis meeting on 27/11 at the Limes, 10-12. NM co-chairs with Tara Brown.
- ES CQC approached Healthwatch, wanting information on services.
NHS England have been complementary about Healthwatch Suffolk.
- JC Attends meetings with NSFT Wellbeing service. 'What's on' gets sent to all staff. JC hoping VASP can join up.
NSFT working closer with voluntary sector. NSFT will fund Suffolk VASP to employ an admin worker for the Strategic VASP and to be able to develop the website.
Brandon and Thetford VASP is on hold due to poor attendance.
Bury VASP will meet on Wednesday 6/11. There may be a West Suffolk VASP with Forest Heath, district based, like MSDC and Coastal VASPs. Haverhill will continue as it is but Chair not sure if she can continue.
Ipswich VASP: Louise Marks is stepping down from Chair. David Grimmer will continue as he is co-chair.
Coastal VASP: Suzanne Wyatt staying on as Chair.
- LA There is a new small support group for Borderline Personality Disorder. The first meeting was this morning. The group can use Pickwick's at Old Fox Yard in Stowmarket free of charge if consuming tea/coffee. NSFT thinks it's a good idea.
- SM Wants to promote Workwise. SP asked for information to be emailed to VASP members. SM will visit IDTs and support groups.
- WS 'Your Way' project, run by Patrick Yardy in Suffolk, is closing down. There will be no more referrals to befrienders
SCC are looking at 43 funded projects, including SNAP who will probably have their funding reduced. This will lead to losing staff. SNAP project will be 'reconfigured' rather than extended and will probably have to go to tender.
There were 297 referrals in October, up 35% on same time last year.

NEXT MEETING – 4TH DECEMBER AT MSDC DOVE ROOM – 1-3 PM

SPEAKER: TBA