

Minutes of the Mid Suffolk VASP (MSVASP) meeting of 2nd July 2013

Held at MSDC offices, 1pm to 3pm

Present:

SP	Sue Parker	MSVASP
WS	Wendy Shepherd	SNAP
BS	Bev Stearn	Suffolk Family Carers
LA	Linda Attwood	SUF
LR	Liz Roper	Suffolk Coalition of Disabled People
SB	Suzanne Britton	MSVASP
BB	Barbara Bilston	Stowmarket Deanery
JG	John Grayling	MSDC
GM	Gareth Moir	SCC
GJ	Gill Jones	Healthwatch
CW	Caroline Woodger	NSFT Link nurse
KL	Kate Lowe	MSDC Wellbeing
KJ	Karen Jackson	Suffolk MIND
KO	Kerry Overton	Healthwatch
JC	Julia Carr	VASP Coordinator

Apologies:

Sally Corker
Guenever Pachent
Nigel Moyes
Janis Engstrom
Kat Saunders
Kirk Brown
Christine Cantwell
Carol Thain

1. Welcome & apologies

2. June minutes and matters arising

SP stated that she did not require a deputy Chair as much as other VASPS as SB is project worker.

SP reported on the excellent event at Stowmarket Football Club organised by SCC and Community Action Suffolk (CAS): *Supporting Lives, Connecting Communities*. A number of groups attending were now on the mailing list, such as the Red Cross.

3. SWOT exercise

See attached notes

The following issues were raised during the exercise:

- there was a lack of ethnic minority groups (BME) in VASPs
- depression is taboo within BME groups
- suggest we invite Ian Steward from the refugee council
- GM provided breakdown of BME figures in Suffolk
- Mid Suffolk VASP to find out from Julia progress on social marketing
- Mid Suffolk VASP does not have enough links with statutory organisations, although Adult and Community Services are in contact with the voluntary sector.

SP will send SWOT analysis to all Mid Suffolk VASP members asking for further points and for ideas for an action plan.

4. Bury Carers Forum on 5th July

SP asked for volunteers for the event.

5 Thornham Walks on Sunday 28th July

SP reported that some organisations were not able to be at Thornham, for example Autism Suffolk and Aspergers Society, but their leaflets would be on display on the VASP stand.

There will be free parking for standholders, teas and coffees, and toilets

SP distributed the event leaflets and will e-mail them to other members of VASP prior to the event.

There will be 12 stands and the event will run from 10 till 3pm

6. WMHD month in October

VASP will run an event in Stradbroke for WMHD and 5th October there will be an event at Jimmy's Farm. SP will also book a Thursday event in the foyer at ASDA Stowmarket

7. Questions for Gary Page's visit in September

SP asked Forum members to think of questions they would like to ask Gary and to send them to her.

8. Members' update and AOB

Further points were raised after the SWOT analysis:

- SP stated that VASP existed to raise issues but not to lobby
- BB said that VASP has to work within political structures.
- WS said that VASP had grown and needed to think about where it was going.
- SP said that issues raised can be forwarded to SUF or to Healthwatch Suffolk who will forward them to Healthwatch England.

a) BB suggested that Sally Fogden from the Coffee Caravan, be invited to speak at a VASP meeting.

b) A question was asked about the Mental Health First Aid Courses. LA replied that they were all fully booked. JG was asked if he could arrange for the training to be held at MSDC and forum members invited. He said he would find out.

c) LA said that KUF training was available.

d) WS mentioned that SNAP are providing a housing support drop –in at MSDC on the first Monday of every month from 2 to 4pm.

Date of next meeting: 3rd September in the Dove Room.

Information provided by GM after the meeting.

Central Suffolk Diversity profile (data from Suffolk observatory)

White British	95.5%
BME made up of...	4.5%
Asian/Asian British	(1.2%)
Black/Black British	(0.9%)
Mixed ethnicity	(1.1%)
Other	(1.3%)