



Minutes of the Steering Group Committee meeting held on 2nd November 2011 at Bleak House, Debenham.

Present – Dr. Paddy Fielder (Chairperson), Richard Blackwell, Lynden Jackson, Sue Jackson, Mary Morley, and Joy Walton.

1 Apologies – Apologies were received from Alison Gravatt.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting which were approved.

2 Consideration of general progress on current and near-term objectives.

- a) **General Progress.** All the activities are continuing without problems. Numbers at Cameo go up and down but there are generally 10-15 clients. There are a continuing number of enquiries.
- b) **Fit Club/Exercise Therapy.** It was initially hoped to set this up at Coopersfield but as the take-up there was low it was widened to a more general audience. The sessions include coordination, posture and muscle tone which all help in fall/illness prevention. The maximum number that can attend a session is twenty and we are currently at the limit, including instructors. The Fit Club is operated on a membership/club basis with the Project paying approximately 50% of the costs. Initially sessions were held fortnightly charging £1 per client but owing to popular demand the sessions are now held weekly and a charge of £1.50 is made.
- c) **Carers Liaison.** Sam Cage is currently on holiday in Namibia for six months. Lynden and Sue are covering her role.
- d) **Education & Awareness Programme.** The following ideas were discussed for increasing awareness:
 - School children being made aware of dementia and options for the possible prevention of the condition. The present generation of school children will have a greater burden of dealing with this problem.
 - : -A connection with The Duke of Edinburgh Award.
 - : -Project leaflets being available at a Coffee Caravan at the leisure centre.
 - : -Holding a one-off seminar and inviting interested parties from the village and surrounding area.
 - : -Carrying out another village leaflet drop.

- e) Clinical Support and the Interface with Local GP Practices. Progress is being made here with meetings have already taken place with Debenham, Framlingham and Mendlesham practices.
- f) Paid Social Care Co-operative. An Achievement Award of £10,000 has been made by The Suffolk Foundation to the Project. It is planned to use this money to advance the set-up of the Care Co-operative.
- g) Other Potential Activities. Alternative therapies being offered as these are beneficial.
Holding some sort of special events.
Singing/music groups. Joy will contact friends of hers regarding this.

3 Publicity, Presentations and Discussions.

- a) New Leaflets. The leaflets were all updated earlier in the year and there are ideas for further leaflets to be produced. The leaflets are much appreciated and are regularly topped up in the Post Office.
- b) This is The Debenham Project booklet. This booklet has been well received. It is clear and 'does the job'. Copies are being forwarded to contacts in The House of Commons and House of Lords.
- c) Future Seminar(s). Because of the time constraints on GPs, it is more practical to visit their practices and talk with them at their convenience rather than hold seminars for them.
- d) Awards. Awards have been received from the following bodies:-
Debenham Parish Council.
Mid-Suffolk District Council.
The Rotary Club – Community Achievement.
Suffolk Acre – The Probert trophy.
The Suffolk Foundation – Improvement Award.
- e) Outreach. Covered in 2d) and 3a)b) &c) above.

4 Consideration of the Financial Position and Funding Prospects.

- a) Financial Position. The Project's position is currently very sound. There are plenty of funds for at least another year. We are keen to get funding from the Adult Care budget because the Project is doing health and social care work. If the Project is replicated in other areas then more official acknowledgement and official funding will be required to support them.
- b) Current & Future Core Funding. Covered in a) above.
- c) Infrastructure (Mental Health Capital Bid). Money from this would be used for two projects. £2,000 for office equipment, computer etc. and £5,000 towards upgrading Dove Cottage. Work on this will start before the end of the year. The Church have agreed to (almost) matching funding of £4,000 to be put towards upgrading the kitchen.
- d) Carer's Co-op (The Suffolk Foundation). £10,000 from The Suffolk Foundation will be used to set up an IT system and get it running (including supporting a part-time administrator).

- e) Funding the “Vision of Caring” (Dof H, SEIF Fund etc.) This needs to be acknowledged as a ‘Pilot Project’ before money from these sources is given. It will be necessary to get influential people at the Dept. of Health involved to start things moving there. Lord Best, Baroness Greengrass, Daniel Poulter and John Gummer are already aware of the Project and the Probert Trophy introduces the Project to Lord Tollemache. In ten days time a dinner is being set up at the House of Commons with Daniel Poulter and invited guests. Mike Rouse is involved with this. It may come down to ‘who you know’. (Note subsequent to the meeting: This occasion has been delayed until February due to the illness of Dan Poulter).

5 Consideration of Progress towards Long Term and ‘Vision of Caring’ Objectives.

- a) Project Team Activity. The team is currently in abeyance. Amanda Jones, Acting Director of Public Health is very supportive.
- b) Orbit Housing. The Project development needs to be unique otherwise organisations like Orbit Housing are not interested. A new approach may be required as developments of 40 or less units are not considered to be financially viable. A revenue stream from the Health Service as well as a transfer of funding from bed-blocking finance will be necessary.
- c) Sue Ryder. Talks about support for training will take place soon.
- d) & e) Hanover and Havebury Housing. Covered in b) above.

6 Any Other Business.

The possibility of opening a charity shop as a means of raising regular funds within the village was discussed. This would require suitable premises and several volunteers. Mary will contact a friend in Mendlesham who is involved in running a shop there to see what might be involved.

7 Next Meeting.

This will be on a date to be arranged in the new year.