

13th February 2008

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**Minutes of the Carers Community Forum
Wed 13th Feb 2008, 10.00am at SAVS Centre, 29-31 Alexandra Street in the Large
Conference Room**

Present: Colleen McCarthy (SAVS), Celia Clark (SAVS), Simon Wallace (Southend Library), Chris Sternshire (Credit Union), David Stansfield (Credit Union), Peter Stroudley (Carers Forum), Alison Williams (Rethink), Rita Weiss (Southend Pensioners Campaign), Gill Betts (Hamlin Trust), Jon Dixon (Hamlin Trust), Cheryl Dibely (Hamlin Trust), Valerie Storey (Ashley Care), Molly Dennis (Carers Forum), Alison Kelly (PALS Southend Hospital), Leslie Vale (PALS Southend Hospital), Daphne Jopson (Southend Pensioners Campaign), Betty Coller (Southend Pensioners Campaign), Tracey (Salvation Army Hadleigh Training Centre), Ron Alexander (DIAL), Wendy Norton (South East Essex College), Sherry Fuller (Southend Borough Council), Ray Bannon (Southend on Sea Borough Council, Dawnette Fessey (Carers Forum), Mary Green (PALS)

Apologies: Madeline Norman (CAPE Care)

Welcome and introduction

Celia Clark gave a welcome to the first Carers Forum. The Agenda for the meeting was outlined and Colleen McCarthy outlined the housekeeping for the meeting.

Presentation

The presentation was given by Sherry Fuller and Ray Banon from Southend on Sea Borough Council. The speakers focussed on the change in attitude and approach in social care provision. It was also outlined that in Southend on Sea Borough Council, social care provision and services were met for all people that request them with 'substantial' or 'critical' need. However, they did outline that information and advice was given to all people that come forward for help or advice. However, currently for service provision they would need to meet the 'substantial' or 'critical' criteria.

There were questions raised about how they determine what 'substantial' and 'critical'. Ray Banon outlined that this was done on a question system for ability to care for your self and do tasks. However, they were clear to point out that they also determine if someone would come under the 'substantial' category if they do not have any care and support. If this is the case they may still get some provision.

There was also a question about the level of support offered to support people who want to continue to pursue hobbies and outside interests. Sherry Fuller outlined that there was provision in the assessment for hobbies and outside interests and how this could be supported.

A question was asked about the numbers of people who are currently in the various categories of care need (mild, moderate, substantial and critical). SF said she would have to come back with those specific figures.

There was some concern from the forum that if all of the carers (16,000) came forward for support the council could not afford to fund it all. Ray Bannon said that the council sometimes overspends on the budget if the need is there. Southend Borough Council have a legal requirement to meet the care needs and they would have to provide that if it was requested.

The speaker session did run significantly over the planned 20-30 minutes. This meant that a number of the other items had to be cut short. The group were given the option to continue with the speaker and question and answers or to move on. The forum opted to continue asking questions around Direct Payments.

There was a suggestion that we organise a course or event around Direct Payment and Personal Budgets as there is obviously a good deal of interest in this topic. Colleen will liaise with Sherry Fuller and Peter Stroudley to consider this further.

Colleen McCarthy will follow up on the questions that have been asked.

Information on Strategic Partnerships & Compact

Celia Clark said that she will outline all of the work being done to date on the Strategic Partnerships in the minutes for this meeting. Summary is as follows:

Local Area Agreement (LAA)

- A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is "...a new contract between central and local government to deliver the priorities of local people", which is being delivered by Southend Together. Southend Together is a partnership of people from services in Southend-on-Sea, such as Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, the Police, Health Services and Voluntary Services.
- A new LAA is being negotiated now and will set priorities for 2008-2011.

Strategic Partnerships

- I attended the first meeting to discuss the Strategy for Self-Care. The need for the strategy and membership of the group was discussed.
- The Homelessness Strategy group have been meeting; they held an open meeting last week when people were invited to give their views on the previous strategy and to give suggestions for the new strategy. Current homeless people will also be consulted and a strategy prepared. A draft will be circulated before it gets agreement from the Council.
- The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) has changed its name to the Children and Learning Executive. Guidelines have been drawn up around commissioning. Commissioning recommendations have been made to the Children & Learning Board.
- Carers Strategy Group attended by Tony LM, this group reports to the Health and Wellbeing Partnership. They discussed the TOR for the group, priorities for the

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Carers Strategy, a report was received from the Young Carers group and the Carers grants were discussed.

- Celia also attended the Supporting People Core Strategy Group and the Mental Health Promotion Strategy Group.
- Celia chairs the Stronger Communities Executive, they are discussing priorities to take forward to the new LAA.

Please contact Celia for more information about any of the above on 01702 356081

Compact

Celia Clark outlined the progress that has been made on Compact to date. All the Codes of Practice and the Consultation Codes are now completed. The compact codes were distributed and made available to the forum

Southend Community Action Forum

Celia Clark outlined the role of the Southend Community Action Forum and explained that is a SAVS member's advisory board. The SAVS Board are looking for representatives from the membership to sit on this Advisory Board which would meet twice a year. The structure documents were handed out and people were asked to speak to either the Trustees or directly to Colleen or Celia if they wanted to be involved.

Information Sharing

Members of the forum gave feedback on their individual areas and any areas of special interest to the groups.

Credit Union

Chris Sternshire from the Credit Union spoke about the role of the Credit Union and how this could be incorporated more into other partnership projects, especially where there is a financial element to it.

Peter Stroudley – Carers Forum

Peter outlined that there are 16,000 carers in Southend although currently less than 1000 carers are being given an assessment for support. He asked that if anyone could find a way to identify more carers could they come forward.

Pensioners Campaign,

The Southend Pensioners Campaign are also holding an advice session and talk on Direct Payments on Wed 20th at the Avenue Baptist Church from 1.45-3.45. All are welcome.

Ron Alexander – DIAL

Ron gave details on the new European Court ruling on carers that may impact Carers rights.

Expert Carers Programme.

Colleen McCarthy told the group about the planned introduction of a new Expert Carers Programme that is due to roll out over 2008 with the first training course planned for August 08. However, it is not clear yet if this will be a pilot initially or a national roll out. Colleen will keep the

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group informed of progress on this. There is also a link included on the Useful Information section of the SAVS website.

Accessing 'Useful information' on the Southend Community Action Website.

There is information available via the Southend Community Action website on the Independent Safeguarding Authority. Select the '**Local Forums**' link in the left hand column and select **Carers Community Forum** from the main body of text. Then a '**Useful Information**' option will appear on the right hand toolbar. Additional information links are available here.

Networking Coffee Mornings

Colleen McCarthy outline that there will also be a monthly Networking Coffee Morning at SAVS. These are a supplement to the forums and will be available for all groups to come along to. Dates to be included at the end under the Dates of the Next Meeting.

Future of the Forum

There was discussion about the future of the forum. Sample Terms of Reference were also distributed to the group for consideration. Terms of Reference will be discussed at the next meeting.

The group agreed that in the initial stages of the forum that we should not invite guest speakers. The next meeting would concentrate on planning, terms of reference and membership.

Any other Business

There was no other business from the group. However, the group were told that if anyone had any other queries to contact Colleen at Southend Community Action at SAVS on 01702 356080 or email colleen on: cmccarthy@savs-southend.co.uk or Celia Clark, Partnership Development Manager on 01702 356081 or email partnership@savs-southend.co.uk

Date of the next Cares Community Forum

All meetings to be held at SAVS, 29-31 Alexandra Street in the Large Conference Room 9.45am - 12.00 (with lunch to follow) unless otherwise stated. Registration required for forums for catering and planning purposes.

Wed 16th July 2008

Wed 26th November 2008

Networking Coffee Mornings

Additional dates for the forum have been added as a result of the feedback that the networking was beneficial. However, this meeting will have a more informal and open format called a 'Networking Coffee Morning' and will mainly be an opportunity for groups to network and for information sharing.

Meetings will be held 10.00-12.00 in the Large Conference Room at SAVS. Booking is not required.

Thurs April 17th 2008

Thurs 15th May 2008

Thurs 5th June 2008 (now rearranged to Wed 4th June 08 call for more details)

Form more information on any of the Community Forums and or register to join call: **Colleen McCarthy at SAVS on 01702 356080** or email: cmccarthy@savs-southend.co.uk

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