

**NOTES OF MIDLOTHIAN COMMUNITY CARE PROVIDERS FORUM  
HELD IN THE SCOTTISH MINING MUSEUM, NEWTONGRANGE  
ON WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2005**

**Present**

Irene Danskin (Allan-Ross Nursing and Homecare Ltd); Alaine Chalmers (Alzheimer Scotland); Hazel Johnson (Alzheimer Scotland); Karen Jackson (ARC); Janis Wadge (Ark Housing Association); Katharine Ellis (Ark Housing Association); Gary MacDonald (Aspire); Sandy Peacock (Aspire); Rhona McNeill (Carr-Gomm Scotland); Robert Cox (Choices Community Care); Ian Huggan (Crossroads Midlothian); Carolyn Jenkins (Deaf Action); Jason Logan (Housecall Nursing & Home Care Agency); Norma McNeill (Midlothian Council); Catherine Burns (Midlothian Voluntary Action); George Wilson (Midlothian Voluntary Action); Margaret McKay (Midlothian Voluntary Action, minutes); Morag Cluness (Social Care Recruitment and Training); Sister Mai O'Connor (St Josephs Care Services); Winnie Tuohy (St Josephs Care Services).

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Introductions were made.

**2. Apologies**

Maureen Martin (Action Group), Margaret Robertson (Castlerockedinvar), Lynne Carruthers (Centenary Care Club), Jenny Brown (Choices Community Care), Alison Edelsten (Columcille Centre), George Welsh (Deaf Action), Michele Elder & Huw Sheppard (Garvald Glenesk); Chris McGuire (Glenesk Day Services); Tony McCluskey (Midlothian Council); Martine Robertson (Midlothian Council Local Area Coordinator team); Carolyn Maxwell (Midlothian Council); Joan Johnson (Orchard Centre Service-health in mind); Mary Lothian (St David's Day Centre); Ken Webster (Trust Housing Association); St Clair Centre Association; Charlie Parker (SAMH).

**3. Development Worker Report and Update**

Catherine gave an overview of what she has been doing since taking up her post in June 2005. This presentation is available from <http://mccp.mvacvs.org.uk/>. [She asked members to contact her if they require paper copies of the presentations.]

She reminded members of awareness sessions taking place on 6 December for the **2006 Return to Learn** course. People interested in finding out more about the course should contact Catherine or see [http://mccp.mvacvs.org.uk/Training/training\\_eventsR2L.html](http://mccp.mvacvs.org.uk/Training/training_eventsR2L.html)

**4. Newsletter and Website Demonstration and Discussion**

Catherine demonstrated the Community Care Providers' Forum website using the big screen and explained that the purpose of the website and newsletter are to gather information in one place instead of inundating people's email and post boxes with single items. The website is updated very regularly and contains the most up to date information. The newsletter is sent out every

two months and is particularly important for those without email or internet access. She requested feedback on ways to improve the website and newsletter and what information people would like to see.

Catherine pointed out that many members of the Community Care Providers' Forum are already included in MVA's Resource Guide [<http://mva.ednet.co.uk/>] but organisation need to check and update this information. Rather than duplicating she suggested adding a Providers Page to the Community Care Providers' Forum website containing members' logos and links to their website. **Please email Catherine your logo and / or website address for inclusion on this page.**

#### **5. SSSC Staff Registration Update**

Catherine gave an update on which SSSC registers are currently open and opening soon and answered some questions about registration. The presentation is available from <http://mccp.mvacvs.org.uk/>

A question raised the difference between completing training and registering with SSSC. Training providers do not register the trainees on completion of training. The individual staff member applies for registration with SSSC when the register opens or when they have completed training. It is recommended that they do not register until they are at least accepted on training. The SSSC send registration packs to those services registered with the Care Commission when relevant parts of the register open. Catherine emphasised the importance of being on the SSSC e-mailing list for updates on registration.

#### **6. Update on Actions from previous meetings**

Catherine updated members on progress on actions from previous meetings. See the presentation at <http://mccp.mvacvs.org.uk/>

#### **7. Proposal for training mapping workshop**

Catherine suggested a training mapping workshop to consolidate information on available training and identify gaps in training provision. **26 January 2006** was proposed for the workshop to take place in Midlothian. If there is enough interest more than one session could be held. Participants will be asked to bring along information on training providers they use.

#### **8. Care Commission Experiences**

**Ian Huggan, Crossroads** gave details of his experience of the recent Care Commission inspection of Crossroads. Although the inspection heightened stress levels, he said it was a positive experience for his organisation, and the feedback received will be the incorporated into his plan for 2006.

A question was raised about if the Care Commission gets feedback from providers on their experience of inspection. There is no formal avenue for providers to give feedback at this stage.

Ian commented that for Crossroads it was more work and expense to post out Care Commission questionnaires to staff. He suggested that providers might prefer to give the addresses to the Care Commission and let them pay for this.

### **9. Care at Home and Supporting People review**

Norma McNeill, Midlothian Council updated the meeting to say that the review being conducted by John Bishop is still progressing.

### **10. Council Appointments**

Norma McNeill updated the meeting on new council appointments and the council structure.

Colin Anderson	Head of Community Care Services
John Scott	Children and Families & Criminal Justice
Ian Tait	Operations Manager, Community Care
Ruth Lowe	Person Centred Planning Co-ordinator

[See the updated Social Work organisational chart from the Council website <http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/Article.aspx?TopicId=2&ArticleId=17638>]

Applications have closed for the position on Contracts Officer. This person, when appointed, will liaise with Community Care Providers' Forum and carry forward the results of the Supporting People / Care at Home review.

### **11. SMART Assistive Technology**

Norma McNeill spoke on the new telecare (assisted technology) pilot programme that Midlothian Council is setting up to enable individuals to perform tasks which otherwise would be difficult for them.

At present they provide a service, which allows vulnerable (usually elderly/disabled) individuals to access a call centre (via a pendant which is worn) in the case of emergency. What they are now looking to introduce is passive technology (use of sensors) as well.

Census figures highlight that by 2018 in the over 85 age group 55% will still live in own homes. The cost of care in care homes is not sustainable at the present rate. A green paper has been written, which highlights the need for changes. £8m has been made available in England.

Midlothian is keen to assist in protection of property, so looking to the provision of smoke detectors/ community safety/intruder alarms etc. Funding has been made available to do a pilot project through Tunstall. The pilot will include 15-20 people and will last for a three-month period. Tunstall provides a lot of equipment which will/can be used to sustain people in their own homes including flood detectors/temperature detectors/bed occupancy monitor/wandering detector/fall detectors. Response should be from key holders. They are hoping to have 3 members of staff (covering 24 hours period) to be able to respond in the case of

emergency and inability to contact key holders, but will obviously have to evaluate practicality.

She highlighted the evidence of savings using assisted technology including people remaining in their own homes for an average of 18 months longer. It was emphasised that this is not a replacement for someone actually going into the home. It will cost about £500 per person to install the technology, but this is similar to providing residential care for a week.

A property is going to be made available as an exhibition house in the new Care Home being built in Gorebridge to enable people to see how it works.

## **12. Current Issues**

Current issues raised at previous meetings were still considered relevant. See presentation <http://mccp.mvacvs.org.uk/>. The issue of premises for meetings and for voluntary sector organisation was raised. Lesley Kelly (MVA) and SEAM are looking at these issues and the feasibility of a voluntary sector hub.

The meeting then went onto discuss how providers can get involved in planning future services for Midlothian and the need to have representatives on planning groups. Norma McNeill offered to feed this information on to Carolyn Maxwell. George Wilson (MVA) reminded members that he is on the Community Planning Partnership and commented that the original seven Community Planning items have been reduced to three.

It was emphasised that real partnership needs real involvement in a genuine way.

## **13. Consultations**

Current and forthcoming consultation were highlighted by Catherine (See presentation at <http://mccp.mvacvs.org.uk/>)

## **14. Publications**

A number of publications were shown and available to view at lunchtime. These are listed in the presentation with information on where to get copies.

## **15. AOCB**

No items were raised.

## **16. Next Meeting Date and agenda**

A date for the next forum was set for **Thursday 23 February 2006, 9.45 am- 13.30 pm** including lunch. George Welsh has offered to speak about Deaf Action's services. Other agenda items are welcomed, please let Catherine know.

Alternative venues for the meeting will be explored due to the difficulty of hearing speakers over the noise of the heaters (necessary at this time of year) at Newtongrange Mining Museum.