



**Redcar & Cleveland Carers Partnership Meeting
Between 12 noon and 2.30pm on Monday, 16th March 2009
Coatham Memorial Hall, Redcar**

Attendees

Carers

Edna Whitewood
Tricia Abell
Gordon Mogg (co-chair)
M Hardy
B Bailes

Ann Lowe
Stuart Saunders
Ann Milne
Marjorie Elliott

M Robinson
Pat Rutherford
R Sabiston
Eileen Purvis

Others

K Milburn
Sandra Lazenby
Stuart Myers
Kath Oyston
Sue Longmate
Maureen Wyres
Wendy Twendale
Julie Trueman
S Metcalfe
David Hamilton
Ann Forrest
Irene Poynter
Angela Bartley

D Stephens
Sandie Platt
Joanna Caton
J Dunford
Edd Harford
Len Wyres
Joanne Nicholson
Niki Benjamin
V Halton
J Everidge
Sue Reeves (acting co-chair)
Toni McHale

Julia Wood
Phillipa Woodhouse
Jason Lowe
Debra Deans
Jane Reast
David Morris
Ann Dale
Ian Hutchinson
Ron Wood
L Desmond
Susi Diamond
Glenda Middleton

Apologies

Carers

Gina Haley
Lucy Smith

Mrs Margaret Yeates

Linda Dickinson

Others

Dr Ashok Kumar MP
Paul Frank
James Seegoolam
Maggie Balmer
Barbara Rankin

Margaret Moore
Debbie Sheldon
Pauline Lavery
Sue Renvoize
John Simpson

Vera Baird QC MP
Lynn Johnson
Bill Gamble
Fiona Chesters

1. Welcome/Apologies – Gordon Mogg

Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting. Lynn Johnson was on holiday and so Sue Reeves, Manager at Carers Together, stood as co-chair in her absence. Maggie Balmer who had intended to present an update on Redcar & Cleveland Carers Strategy was poorly and unable to attend. Debbie Sheldon was also unable to attend and give an update on Personalisation. Kath Oyston, Sign Language Coordinator, was present should her assistance be requested.

Apologies would be included in the minutes. No apologies were received from the floor.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising – Gordon Mogg/Sue Reeves

- The minutes of the last meeting were made available and viewed for accuracy. No errors were raised.
- Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council were sadly unsuccessful in their application for Beacon Status, although shortlisted. A great deal had been learnt from the process and improvements would now be worked upon.
- A lot of work has been carried out by Carers Together, Coast & Country, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and Allied to build upon the current Emergency Card Scheme to include emergency respite. An updated application form is being developed and two carers agreed to be part of a pilot recently. The first did not go so well but drew attention to some gaps in the procedure. The second trial was very successful. Further work will take place with the hope of launching the scheme in the near future.
- Jane Reast was invited to talk about Personalisation in Debbie Sheldon's absence. Co-production is a fairly recent term used when talking about direct participation and community involvement in social care services in the UK. The Department of Health invited Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council - one of only 10 Local Authorities in the country - to apply for upto £3,500 for people who they work in partnership with. The application was successful. 'From service plan to a life plan' is something that Carers Together, Real Opportunities Centre, Linda Dickinson and Barbara Rankin have all been looking at and two half day sessions have been arranged for anybody else wanting to be involved. Contact Carers Together for more information.

3. Update on Redcar & Cleveland Carers Strategy – Sue Reeves

After a lot of work between Carers Together, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and Redcar & Cleveland Primary Care Trust - including involvement from Carers Partnership - the strategy is now in draft form and is due to go to consultation next month. The draft strategy will be available on Carers Together's website carerstogether-rc.org.uk and will be sent to members of the Partnership via email. Part of the consultation will involve feedback from focus groups. Anybody wanting to take part was invited to contact Carers Together. Everybody was encouraged to offer their feedback.

4. Training – Ann Forrest

Ann Forrest is a Quality Improvement Lead for Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland Community Services. She was invited to lead on a pilot project in partnership with Carers Together, to deliver educational advice and support for carers.

A number of carers were selected by Carers Together to take part in 2 hour sessions over a 4 week period. The sessions were: What services are available and how to access them; Safe handling of medicines; FALLS; Looking after yourself. Very positive feedback was received from the carers who took part, with a few suggestions for improvement. A number of areas including venues, etc will need consideration before carers training can be rolled out in Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland.

No questions were raised from the floor. One of the carers who took part in the pilot offered his commendation and recommended that should the training be rolled out everybody with a caring role should take advantage of it.

Carers Together are running a Stress Management course starting in early April. Anybody wanting to participate should contact Susi Diamond at Carers Together.

5. ‘Take the Lead’ Active Learning for Active Citizenship – Karen Milburn

Established 20 years ago, SkillShare provides training which strengthens and supports voluntary and community sectors in the North East of England. SkillShare is currently recruiting individuals who would like to become more influential in their communities to participate in its ‘Take the Lead’ programme. Applications are invited from local people who can commit to an extended introduction day on 5th May 2009 and 1 day per month for a ten month period thereafter. The course is wide-ranging and will help people to gain the confidence, knowledge and skills required to engage in democratic processes, be more informed of local, regional and national structures and be better informed and equipped to influence change. It even includes a visit to parliament. All costs will be covered but places are limited to 15 for Redcar and Cleveland. Applications will be looked at to find a good mix of participants. More information and application forms were circulated and can be obtained at enquiries@skillsharene.co.uk or telephone (01429) 868353.

Q Will any of the workshops be held in Redcar?

A Yes. Once participants are chosen venues will be arranged.

6. Redcar and Cleveland Local Involvement Network – Debra Deans

Redcar and Cleveland Local Involvement Network (LINK) is bringing together local people, organisations and groups who want to improve health and social care services. They want to get everyone involved by expressing their views and relating their experiences. The LINK will find out what people want, investigate issues that are raised and, when needed, use its statutory powers to hold services to account having great potential to make a difference. Everyone was encouraged to consider either: registering on the database to receive information; becoming a registered member - *receiving detailed information on the activity of the LINK and getting involved with specific issues, eg GP surgery opening times, etc;* becoming part of the LINK Strategy Group – *meeting monthly to decide what work the LINK*

will undertake. Information booklets, registration forms and invitations to the Redcar and Cleveland LINK launch on Friday, 24th April 2009 were circulated. More information can be obtained by contacting Debra at debra.deans@shaw-trust.org.uk or by telephoning (01642) 626342.

BREAK

7. Telecare – Jason Lowe/Joanna Caton

Jason Lowe, Head of Tenancy Services at Coast & Country, was invited to speak because he received a great deal of interest about Homecall and Telecare after being guest speaker at Carers Together's Annual General Meeting back in February.

Jason began by talking about the demands placed upon the 1 in 8 people who are carers in the UK and gave some background to the caring role. Currently installed in 5,000 homes in Redcar and Cleveland, Homecall systems have existed for many years to support people to live independently. Telecare is the next generation of community alarm systems and as a service can help to support carers in their daily lives by providing support, peace of mind and promoting independence and dignity. Tailored to meet individual specific needs, various sensors are placed around the home and monitored 24 hours per day. An appropriate response is made, again tailored to meet individual specific needs. Introduced in 2006, Telecare currently offers peace of mind and improved quality of life to over 200 service users in Redcar and Cleveland.

Joanna Caton then gave a number of case studies where Telecare has supported carers living in Redcar and Cleveland. The examples demonstrated how aids such as gas sensors, bed sensors, etc had been successful by providing peace of mind to the carer and preventing or reacting to potentially fatal incidents.

- Q Can sensors help to alleviate the worry of bogus callers taking advantage of a cared for person if left alone at home?
- A If unwanted visitors have persistently called at an address, causing distress and risk to a cared for person systems can be put in place to provide support from a potential risk, eg Coast & Country to contact next of kin. Sensors are designed to pick up problems but cannot always prevent incidents.
- Q What if a cared for person has no next of kin?
- A Wardens would visit the property and carry out appropriate action which may involve contacting a care provider.
- Q Who decides upon the types of equipment that are installed?
- A Coast & Country work with health professionals such as GPs, etc.
- Q With advancement in technology is there a programme for reassessment?
- A Coast & Country is the provider. A review team is being established but does not currently exist. Assessments are currently made by Coast & Country staff.

To close, Jason explained that Coast & Country have a demonstration suite and should any groups be interested in visiting it they should contact Coast & Country.

8. Winter Warmth – Sarah Metcalf

People are considered to be in fuel poverty if 10% of their income is spent on fuel. Efforts are being made to eradicate fuel poverty by 2016 and initiatives have included grants for cavity wall insulation, etc. Energy Savings Trust offers free, impartial advice including energy saving tips, grants, etc.

Cleveland Fire Brigade carry out free home safety visits providing fire alarms, safety tips, etc. Winter Warmth is another brigade initiative which can provide short term solutions to heating issues including replacing dangerous portable heaters with safer panel heaters, etc. The aim is to reduce the number of accidents and fatalities. Any referrals should be made by telephoning (01429) 874063. The scheme will run until 31st March 2009 but contact can still be made after that date and help and advice given.

Q Is it right to refer somebody without their prior knowledge?

A The person concerned should be aware of the referral. If you are concerned about somebody but are not sure how to broach the issue of safety with regards to the heat/lighting in use a fire safety check would be a good start.

9. Any Other Business – Gordon Mogg

- Carers Together's Annual General Meeting was a great success. Annual Reports are available should anybody want one.
- Everybody was encouraged to take a look at the information table at the back of the room which included details of two courses currently being organised by Carers Together. The first is a basic computer course and the second is a stress management course. Anybody interested was encouraged to sign up as places are limited. Message in a Bottle and applications for the Emergency Card Scheme were also available on the information table.
- Carers Together are beginning to organise events for Carers Week. The theme this year is 'Carers ... the UK's secret service'. Any suggestions are welcomed. Details will be made available in the next magazine and on the website.

Gordon closed the meeting, thanking everybody for attending, and thanking guest speakers for their very informative presentations. The next meeting is:

**on Friday, 12th June 2009
at Coatham Memorial Hall
Lunch served from 12 noon for a 12.30pm start**

