

Chairs report Community Care Assynt AGM
15/11/17

Community Care Assynt has continued to provide a welcoming and friendly support service for the older people in Assynt. We, the board, are very grateful for the time and energy the staff and volunteers give to allow this to happen. I would also like to thank the board for their continuing commitment to Community Care Assynt.

Obviously the biggest change this year is the resignation of Amanda as manager. Amanda was with us from the start of the service and without her commitment and creativity it would not have been the success it has been.

But all things change over time and we have been very lucky to recruit Bill Smith as the new manager. He was a social work manager in his previous jobs so brings to the Assynt Centre a new range of skills. He will bring change, new ways of doing things and new ideas, this is all good for the development of the service.

Whilst the core of our service remains essential the registered support service continues to prove itself of immense value. This year particularly it has allowed some of the oldest and most vulnerable residents in the area to remain at home for as long as possible. At times this has placed significant strain on our staffing levels and we continue to keep an eye on this at board level.

Two other services, the day respite service and the befriending service, are at the opposite ends of their funding. The day respite service has been very well received but its funding stream has come to an end and will not be renewed from the current provider (this is not the NHS). We are currently looking for new funding to continue this. The befriending service is now in a position to start work. Like all new services up take at this stage is small but we hope over time it will increase.

Our relationship with the NHS remains good and they continue to be our main funder through our service level agreement. I was very pleased at a recent meeting with the NHS to hear the two local NHS managers report that all the data we are required to submit had proved to senior management and accountants that we were saving them money! Our funding is secure at the moment. Having said that our grant from the NHS remains the same as it was when we started out 7 years ago whilst all costs continue to go up.

The NHS are keen for us to increase our involvement with the community at all ages. We have now had one visit from the pre-school to the centre which went well and others are planned. Hopefully the primary school will also become involved. It has been shown that interaction of this type is beneficial to older people. Other ways of working with the community to promote health and well being will have to be worked out so watch this space.

David Slator
Chair CCA