

Fife Voluntary Sector Mental Health Meeting

Cottage Family Centre

**29-31 Cawdor Crescent
Kirkcaldy, KY2 6LH**

Wednesday 21st November 2007, 14.00.

Present:

Bryan Poole	CVS Fife
Lyndsay Macadam	CVS Fife
Helen Rorrison	VONEF
Mary Lynch	Apex Scotland
Colin Orr	Hearing Voices Network (Fife)
John Jones	Express Group (Fife)
Edie Gledhill	Central Fife Bipolar Group
Helen Glass	The Cottage (NSF Scotland)
Stuart Pryde	Fife Family Support Project (NSF Scotland)
Derek Magee	Contact Point Buckhaven
Elaine Fox	ENERGI
Naomi Anderson	Arden House Projects
Billy Lynch	Frontline Fife
Julie Penn	Alzheimer Scotland Action on Dementia

Apologies:

Sally Anderson (FEAT), Margot MacKenzie (Victim Support Fife), Gavin Logan (Express Group Fife), Joyce Nicoll (Charis Foundation), Gary Guichan (Fife Advocacy), Stella MacDonald (PHAD Fife), Rhona Cunningham (Fife Gingerbread), Amber Higgins (Penumbra), Tim Collins (Penumbra), Marnie Collin (KASP), Jane Maciver (Link Adolescent Befriending Project), Caroline Ward (Link Befriending Project).

1. Welcome & Introductions

Bryan informed the group that Lyndsay Macadam from CVS Fife would be taking over Douglas McLellan's role of supporting the Health & Wellbeing Forums as Douglas had moved on to take up a position with Age Concern Scotland.

2. Background to the Meeting

It became apparent last year that some groups active in the field of mental health were receiving less support from Social Work than they had been previously and CVS Fife had therefore made a commitment to bring Fife Voluntary Sector mental health groups together at some point to discuss issues of mutual concern.

Discussions regarding support and funding for Health based Voluntary Organisations took place between CVS Fife and VONEF during the summer of 2007, during the course of which it became apparent that there were some issues around communication both internally to the voluntary Sector and with the general CHP agenda. In particular concerns were shared around support to and for work relating to mental health. It was agreed that it was necessary to create some sort of setting for mental health groups to get together and exchange information and views.

Bryan also advised the group that CVS Fife with VONEF were organising a meeting of the Chairs and Reps of the Health and Well-Being Forums to review progress and discuss how to make best use of the forums.

This meeting though was primarily about the structures that had been and were developing around mental health and how the Voluntary Sector could best contribute to that agenda.

3. Structural/Representational Issues/Accountability

Stuart Pryde advised the group that the landscape was pretty cluttered and to date still lacked clarity:

- There is a central Mental Health S.I.G. which is answerable to the central CHP.
- There are 3 local mental health sub-groups which are sub-groups of the S.I.G. and mirror the CHP areas.
- Each Mental Health Sub-Group has 3 voluntary sector representatives, who go to the S.I.G.

The vol. sector representatives seem to be elected to these groups quite randomly, through being known by people who sit on them.

The remit of the S.I.G. is quite broad but also quite demanding. The Mental Health Sub-Groups are presently agreeing their remits and priorities and are waiting for approval from the S.I.G. Each of the three sub-groups is at a different stage in this process.

There doesn't seem to be any structure for cascading information on what is discussed between the different groups.

Following some discussion, it was agreed that there was a need for a structure to be put in place for appointing and supporting representatives to these groups and receiving and feeding back information and opinions. It was also felt that whilst it was important that the mental health agenda remain incorporated within the wider Health & Wellbeing Forums, there is probably a need for a separate structure dedicated to mental health.

The group decided that as the S.I.G. is facilitated by George Cunningham on behalf of the CHP, reps from the groups present meeting should request a meeting with him to:

- discuss the issue of voluntary sector representation
- clarify the role of the S.I.G.
- clarify how many vol. sector positions there are and how they should be chosen
- and seek to discuss other relevant issues

These people should then report back to the next meeting of vol. sector mental health groups in order to decide the way forward.

It was agreed that CVS Fife and VONEF would work to set up a meeting in January if possible. Stuart, Elaine and Colin volunteered to attend as representatives and feed back to the next meeting.

4. Funding

□ Area Redesign Team Funding

There was a general discussion about the ending of the Area Redesign Team funding in March 2008.

Elaine Fox told the group that Caroline Ward from Link had received a letter informing her that the CHPs plan to use the A.R.T. money to fund mental health nurses in GP practice. She also said that she had heard that NHS Fife plans to create a full-time post for a funding advisor to help small groups seek funding.

It was established that each A.R.T. had around £30,000 for recurring health improvement funding and £10,000 for annual project funding, so the total Fife-wide seems to be around £120,000. If there is no consultation as to what will happen to this funding when the A.R.T. ends, there is a fear that this money will simply disappear in to the statutory sector. No-one seems to have a clear idea what will happen to this money or what may or may not replace the A.R.T. funding.

It was suggested that this issue should be raised at the meeting with George Cunningham. Bryan requested a list of groups that were funded by A.R.T. money, so that they could take facts and figures of who exactly would be affected and what the impact would be of the withdrawal of this money.

□ General Funding

The group discussed the fact that the Scottish Government has announced the budget for 2008/2009 and they have reduced the amount of ring-fenced funds, giving local councils greater freedom on where they allocate their spending. This gives greater flexibility but it means that voluntary sector organisations will have to engage with Fife Council, including Councillors, in order to ensure that they are aware of the services they provide and can take this into account when allocating funding.

Colin Orr informed the group that the leading mental health issues in the local plan focus on supporting people back into work so that is likely to be a council priority when it comes to allocating funding.

□ **Funds Held by VONEF**

Helen Rorrison told the group that VONEF is holding £2000 from when they had a dedicated health worker, which is to be used to organise a mental health conference in North East Fife.

Following a discussion on the topic, it was decided that a steering group would be formed to take the issue forward. Helen offered to facilitate the group, Helen Glass volunteered a member of staff from the cottage, Elaine volunteered a member of staff from ENERGI and John Jones volunteered a member of staff from Express Group (Fife).

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be set following confirmation of a date for a meeting with George Cunningham, but is expected to be sometime in January. CVS Fife will notify groups of the date as soon as possible. All groups are requested to provide up-to-date contact details in order to ensure that they are notified of the meeting date.