

Minute of meeting DDN 7th November 2019

Present – Diana Green, Alasdair Swan, Frances Rollison, Jo McNamara, Lorna Bunney.

Minutes approved.

1 Matters arising – Alasdair’s submission to the Courier was not published. PVG Registration – Jo contacted Disclosure Scotland to establish DDN responsibility for instigating checks. Checks are not required for the volunteers given their level of contact with participants but a request should be made for Lorna.

2 Co-ordinators Report – an update was given on both groups, and it was noted that both groups were running well. The recently formed Wednesday group is coming together nicely, and friendships have already been made between members of each group. It was noted that the Wednesday group has a different dynamic from that of the Thursday group - several of the attendees accompanying Carers, having more advanced symptoms of a dementia related condition. New volunteers are also settling in well.

The policy on attendance has been clarified, and it was agreed that paid Carers will not be able to attend group meetings.

The 2020 programme will restart on 8/9 January.

3 Review DDN achievements and future intentions - This item will be discussed at a future dedicated meeting.

4 Finance – an additional £4k in donations and grants has been received making a total of £12k available for expenditure.

AS is actively looking for new sources of funding LB mentioned that she knows of other projects where salaries are funded by the Roberston Trust, and more information should be sought.

AS will contact Philip Imirzi re donation button on Facebook site.
Lorna reminded the Board that the Co-op funding is specifically for arts activities.

5 Communications – Discussion around Dementia Friendly evening and event publicity. While the evening was attended by many people already involved with DDN but not members of the general public. A number of reasons were suggested but it was felt that in future information should be more specifically targeted at medical professionals. Sue Northrop experienced similar issues with a recent event. Suggested that the Practice Newsletter could be used to reach patients. Stuart Nelson has taken over from Frances and will be the new contact for the Newsletter.

Dementia Friendly East Lothian - Jo will attend the Gathering 26th November . There is a need for more information and discussion around the question of Meeting Centres. There is a range of dementia-friendly activities across the community of Dunbar though this does not mean that there are not gaps and DDN will engage with the DFEL process.

The DCaf project is attracting good numbers and is attended by some of the DDN group members.

6 Lorna's roles as Trustee/Employee – Lorna has voiced her feelings of discomfort in holding two roles with the organisation. As a paid employee, as well as being an unpaid trustee, she feels that she has a different status from the other trustees and noted that there are some aspects of the Board's duties that are not her responsibility. Developing the activities of the Carers Groups is central to her role but policy issues and promotion of the Network are not her priorities, given the time she has available to devote to the SCIO's activities.

The Board discussed the issues raised by Lorna and acknowledged her concerns. All agreed that Lorna's status as a Board member was essential and noted that her dual role in the organisation had been fully disclosed to OSCR and was covered by the SCIO's constitution. While the Board has overall responsibility for the organisation's activities Lorna's priorities focus on the operational aspects rather than policy, promotion and due diligence. This is similar to other trustees who have priority roles without necessarily being active in all of the SCIO's activities. Board meetings cover all the areas of the charity but that does not mean that all trustees are responsible for delivering all aspects. Lorna's input as a trustee to these discussions is invaluable.

7 D.O.N.M. Thursday 23rd January 2020. 4.00pm, 81 Countess Road.