

HVDA Update



JANUARY 2010

HVDA AGM and Health and Care Awards

Each year HVDA provides an opportunity to learn about it's work from those who have benefited from its support over the previous year. This year HVDA combined it's AGM with an awards ceremony for groups involved in Health and Wellbeing. Groups receiving awards were asked to speak on behalf of their group for no more than five minutes on how they have worked with HVDA and to highlight their own achievements over the last year. Groups receiving an award were given the opportunity to promote their work to the wider Voluntary and Community Sector and key people in the PCT and the Local Authority.



Presentations were made based on the NHS World Class Commissioning themes: Staying Healthy; Children and Young Peoples Health; Mental Health and Wellbeing; Acute Care and Planned Care; End of Life Care and Long Term Conditions;

Cllr Ged Hall introduced the awards ceremony (photographs from left to right):

Staying Healthy—presented by Louise Wallace, Acting Director of Health Improvement to Headland Future, represented by Martin Todd.

Children and Young People's Health—presented by Ian Merritt, Head of Commissioning and Children's Services to Hartlepool Families First, represented by Paul Thompson.

Mental Health and Wellbeing—presented by Carl Bashford, Joint Strategic Commissioning Manager of Mental Health Services to the Artrium, represented by Colin Thompson.

Acute Care and Planned Care—presented by John Mennear, Director of Community Services to LINks, represented by Ruby Marshall.

End of Life Care—presented by Geraldine Martin, Head of Services, Adult and Social Care to Hartlepool and District Hospice, represented by Tracey Woodall.

Long Term Conditions—presented by Margaret Hunt, Policy and Organisational Development Adviser to Epilepsy Outlook, represented by Jacqui Gettings.



HVDA would like to thank all partners for their continued support to HVDA and the Voluntary and Community Sector. Copies of HVDA's 2008—2009 Annual Review can be obtained via request from Andrea Fletcher, Operations and Personnel Officer at HVDA.

9, 500 years to Get it Right

HVDA were pleased to work with local authority, health partners and members of the 50+ Forum to deliver an event with more than 150 residents and organisations working in Hartlepool. The Get It Right Event on 6th November at the Historic Quay gave opportunities for older people to discuss life in Hartlepool and visit market stalls with information relevant to later life. The combined age of those that declared their age was 9,500 years with an average age of 62.5 years.



Eight topic areas relating to ten strands within the Hartlepool Older Persons Strategy were discussed, painstakingly recorded by facilitators and subsequently collated into a report by Paul Hyde, a freelance consultant.

A multiagency working group will use this report to examine the issues raised at the event and, together with evidence from the recently published Housing, Care and Support Strategy and Transport consultation events, will support the development of an action plan. The final action plan will help to revitalise the Hartlepool Older Persons Strategy with publication expected in March with summary copies being available from April 2010.

In all 98% of participants at the event said that opportunities for them to have their say were good (21%) or very good (77%); and so it seems that from one event and the ongoing participation of older people in developing the Older Persons Strategy for Hartlepool agencies and local people are working towards getting it right—the theme of the day.

Copies of the report are available online at www.hvda.co.uk/50-forum or by contacting Sian Johnson 50+ Development Officer.

HOW A VOLUNTEER WAS HELPED TO FOLLOW HER DREAMS

A Volunteer had a vision of what she wanted to do in the future. From her own negative experiences of school, she felt compelled to offer guidance and support to young people who experience difficulties with learning, find it hard to concentrate due to outside influences or have challenging behaviour. The Volunteer's vision was to help them achieve their academic potential.

Having spent several years raising a family, with no qualifications or previous employment history, she didn't know where to start until she walked through the doors of HVDA.

She registered with the Volunteer Centre in October 2008 and was appointed to a Volunteer Development Officer who listened to her ideas, understood her enthusiasm and identified her personal qualities and skills. A volunteer placement within a school was organised for her to gain practical experience to further develop her skills and she was given access to several relevant training courses. She also enlisted the support of the Volunteer Centre's Career Coach to focus her ideas, design a career plan and remain motivated towards achieving her ideal career. As she became more involved in her volunteering role she found her confidence grew. In September 2009 the Service Manager of her voluntary placement approached her which resulted in her employment as a Classroom Assistant.

The Volunteer is now studying towards a degree, enjoying her new career and has made her vision a reality.

For more information on how you can use volunteering to help you follow your dreams, contact Helen Macklam at the Volunteer Centre on (01429) 262641. In 2008/09 HVDA supported 580 Volunteers.



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