

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Making a difference to the Centre Garden !

Thank you!

The Management, staff and clients of the Project would like to express their appreciation and say thank you to the following organisations, companies or individuals who support the work of this Project with gifts of different kinds.

Big Lottery, Bill Brown, Cameron House Community Education Centre, CEC Health & Social Care, Councillors Burgess, Orr, Perry & Rose, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council, Erin Wallace & Club Japan, the 'Friends of Prestonfield Project', Glasgow & Weir, HC Wright Garden & Landscape Services, James Andean, Janette Wallace, Lena Kemp, Little Monkeys Nursery, May Miller, the Family of Daphne McCaffrey, the family of Norma McCloy, Tom & Maureen Hutchison, Netta Watson, NHS Lothian Podiatry, Pat Lovelock, Prestonfield Primary School, Scottish Fire & Rescue, Tom Gilzean BEM, Warner's Solicitors.



Chairpersons Report

Once again it is time to report on the work of the Project in the last year and my opportunity to say thank you to everyone involved in making our service the excellent success it is.

You will see from the photographs and comments from the people who use our services and from their carers the difference Prestonfield makes to their lives in many different ways.

We are entering our 26th year of operations and the 22nd year in our Centre. None of that would have been possible without the finance and support of many people and organisations over those years. Those who have contributed in the past year are acknowledged on the back page of this report.

Many of us on the Management Group have served for a number of years and I am inviting others to support the work undertaken by the Project staff and Centre volunteers and encourage you to join us to enable the work to continue.



Moira O'Neill
Chairperson

Co-ordinators Report



Once again another year has quickly flown by and it is time to report how the Project has performed over that time.

In the past year the Project has continued to operate all our services - lunch club, art group, social activities, men's group, women's group, Carer's Café, Carers events, dementia and high level day service as well as continuing our advice and support work. Our new service addition this year was the introduction of 'Happy Feet' our personal footwear service.

There have been some changes in personnel and we have met new clients and lost old friends but one thing remains constant – the need for our services continues as does the need to develop and increase the range of service we can offer to enable people to remain at home and as independent as possible

In the year we received 110 new referrals for a service, added £18,742 to the income of our older people and offered a variety of activities, events and trips which have made a difference in the quality of life of those in our care. We can tell from our regular reviews with clients and their relatives or carers, that *is* what is happening at Prestonfield and it is a *team* effort - we have a staff team, a management team and a volunteer team who all give their time and their expertise to ensure what we offer is the best we can.

Sometimes in the busy day to day, we who provide care services do not appreciate the impact our work has on others and while we hope – no - we strive to make a difference, it is often the 'after effect' of what we have done which tells our story to a wider audience.....what do I mean by thatwell just before I started to write this Annual Report we were visited at the Neighbourhood Centre by a Chinese Nursing Teacher and then from Hong Kong by a Group of Senior Officials and Executives from a Care Service and the Hong Kong Social Work Service to see the work we do in situation – they wanted to speak to our older people, to the staff and to the volunteers while they were in Edinburgh attending a conference. They had asked someone we have worked with in NHS Lothian for an example of an exemplary service that makes a difference in the care of older people and were told about us.

Co-ordinators Report

As I said, other people see that difference we make when we do not and they spread the word about the work in Prestonfield and make us friends in far places such as China and Hong Kong.

As we go forward to a new year we once again will face issues re future funding – our Big Lottery Grant which has sustained our preventative and carer services ends next October and part of my job is looking at how we replace it. As mentioned last year we are part of a Partnership to deliver local homecare which is hoped will eventually generate surplus monies which can be re-invested into some of the preventative work we do but like many other Groups, funding is once again a looming problem for the future.

I always try to include in my report a thought or a quote reflecting what we've done and the difference we have made in that past year. Maya Angelou was the renowned Black American Poet whose best known work was 'Why the Caged Bird Sings'. She wrote many poems and in one Maya said that we should 'Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud'. I like to think the Project brings the sunshine that produces a rainbow from the clouds in peoples lives.

I know the Project has provided many rainbows in many peoples clouds – for example the work in the Advice Service – sorting out problems for our older people and hopefully making life more comfortable for them, dealing with paperwork, ensuring they get a service they need.

We also provide a welcoming haven in the Neighbourhood Centre where older people can meet with their peer group, share happy memories and be supported through bad times.

How do I know this? When we carry out reviews with our clients, they or their family tell us about the difference the Project has made in their lives – we record the increases in their social contacts and the fact the clients have confirmed they do not feel so isolated by coming here – they have made friends, have said coming here is the highlight of their week – they tell us it takes them out of the house instead of sitting by the window looking out at the world - coming to the Centre gives them something to talk about to their families - one lady said she sets her alarm clock to ensure she is up and ready to come in when the bus goes for her – they rely on us a great deal and all said they would be lonely and would go downhill if they were not here. When they were asked how they would feel if they could not come to Prestonfield - they said they would be devastated if they could not come. Just a small sample of statements genuinely made which tell all of us we do make a difference and bring the sunshine that makes the rainbow from the clouds.



Linda M Wright
Project Co-ordinator



Men's Group intent on the Horse Racing Game and the indomitable dominoes

