

Annual Report 2009 -10

Chairperson's Report

It is that time when we review the work of the Project over the past year and once again it has been eventful and we hope making a difference to the lives of our older people in the Community who without our services would find life, lonelier, with fewer outings or the little pleasures which spending time with their friends gives to many. It has been a difficult year for staff and Management in striving to retain services with reduced funding but the Management hope that for the clients the service they receive remains much the same.

As this year ends we are losing our Support Service which has been so beneficial in introducing people to services and giving carer respite but as it is a one to one service is costly and unfortunately is going as we concentrate on retaining as many services within the Centre as possible. We are indeed fortunate on owning our Centre as we have no rent to pay, only maintenance costs, which have been kept to a minimum as our reserves diminish.

My personal thanks to all who work hard to 'make the difference' to our clients lives - paid staff, volunteers, members of the Management Group as well as those who give financial support to our much valued services.

Moira O'Neill



Co-ordinator's Report

Another year has flown by and time once again to report on the Project and its work with the Older People in our Community. Despite restricted funding we have managed to provide the clients who come here with a variety of activities and projects which keep their interest and give them the company they enjoy in their peer groups. The numbers attending Day service remain stable and could increase if we had additional transport and another carer in the Dayroom. In the current financial climate that is unlikely and we have had a difficult year making one staff member redundant at the beginning of the year and another four posts going at the end of the year as we lose our much praised Support Service.

The Project Management are now focusing on the Day Services within the Centre and endeavouring to save as many of those services as we can as the funding for services remains static or ends altogether.

Despite this we have as well as the daily services offered five events this year – our Annual Christmas Lunch, the Spring Lunch, the Summer Outing, the Autumn Event and a special afternoon when 36 young Americans, the Texas Girls Choir, entertained us to an afternoon of song followed by a Scot's afternoon tea. Photographs of some of those events are in this report and you can see how the clients enjoy these special days which can be highlights in their lives.

I always find it difficult at this time to say something new about what we do as the years go by and times are difficult. This year I returned to the clients to ask them how they feel about the service they receive here. Overleaf are some of our client's responses when asked 'Why do you come here?' and 'Are we making a difference to your life?'

We face another difficult year but the need for our services does not diminish. This past year we received 102 new referrals for service. We made 1,701 contacts to or on our clients behalf. In addition we increased the income to individuals by £6,649. As you can see from these brief statistics the pattern of our work is changing and while the drop in advice service is still used we are moving to more daycare and the ongoing support to the clients who attend the Centre each week.

Linda M Wright



Day Activities

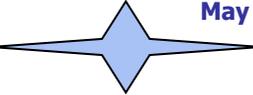
Continuing to make a difference to life for older people in the Community

What the clients say.....



'When my family suggested I go to a Day Centre I was not for it but now I am glad I did – I would have regretted not coming – the atmosphere here encourages you to come back and getting transport here makes such a difference. Otherwise I would be sitting in the house watching the telly – here I have company – get to hear different opinions and do interesting things. The staff are all helpful and good to us.'

May Currie



" My doctor suggested I come as it would bring me out – it does - it makes the brains I've got work – we do things, make things – I like the craft group – I come Monday and Tuesday and would not miss it – I look forward to coming – getting company, talking, laughing – I like Monday and Tuesday better than anything – If I did not come here I would be in the house all day alone. You can also go to the staff and talk to them about things in confidence."

Ella Paul

"Coming to the Centre has changed by life – it brightens my life – I would have gone melancholy if I did not come here – it definitely makes a difference – it is the main part of my life now."

Liz Horne



"I enjoy the company and now I have a hobby – painting! It takes me out of the house – the staff are brilliant to put up with us - nothing is too much trouble."

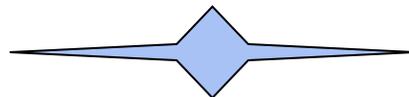
Eddie Ritchie

"Coming here is the highlight of my week - it makes a difference because I can express myself in my art."

Rosemary Canning

"I love coming here – it brings you out – I enjoy the exercises and the activities and different company."

Doris Steed



Acknowledgements

- we say a big thank you to the following for their ongoing support -:

Ambassador Tours ~ Bank of Scotland (Newington Branch) ~ Bridgend Allotments ~ City of Edinburgh Council ~ Children & Families Health & Social Care ~ Councillors Burgess, McKenzie, Perry & Rose ~ Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council ~ Friends of Prestonfield Project ~ HC Wright Garden & Landscaping ~ Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland ~ Lothian & Border Fire & Rescue Service ~ Lothian & Borders Police ~ NHS Lothian (Dementia Co-ordinator) ~ Prestonfield Primary School ~ Robertson Trust ~ Scottish Community Foundation ~ Texas Girls Choir ~ Warners Solicitors.