



Project Carers Event

This year VOCAL met with some of our Carers who told them that they "value the service greatly, were positive about the quality of the service and the relationship with staff and have clear constructive ideas to give them additional supports".

Co-ordinators Annual Report

Hello again and welcome to the Annual Report. The Project has undergone another year of mixed fortunes. At the time of the last AGM we were able to report a funding success having secured Fairer Scotland Funding of £58,000, however despite achieving high grades from the Care Commission for the care & support of our clients and their carers, this funding ended in March 2011 and we were unsuccessful in applying for its replacement from the Health Inequalities Fund.

To alleviate the immediate funding crisis we received a one off additional grant of £25,000 from CEC Department of Health & Social Care. With this grant, the normal Health & Social Care grant, Project reserves, Supporting People Funding and adjustments in the staffing establishment, we will be able to continue at the current service level until March 2012 which gives us time to seek additional sources of funding. The future is far from certain but with hard work and the commitment of everyone with an interest in the Project, we will continue to make a difference to the lives of our older people.

Despite the funding worries the services to our clients have continued unabated. The client numbers have remained steady with an average of 118 clients a week receiving day service and the demand for service also continues with 122 new referrals for services being received in the last year. In addition the drop in advice continued daily and all the usual events took place, Christmas Lunch, Summer Outing, Autumn Event plus this year we had an 'indoor street party' to celebrate the Royal Wedding in April.

Client reviews indicate they are generally happy or very happy with the services offered and through our newly developed User Group will become more involved in the planning of the services and activities.

We held another Carers Event this year facilitated by VOCAL where the support we give to our Carers was acknowledged however additional services they would like were also identified and are being incorporated in further funding applications.

As ever during the year we lost clients which makes us sad but we also welcomed in new ones. There were changes in staffing both paid and voluntary. Some of our younger volunteers moved on hopefully taking with them added skills and good practical experience of working in a busy day centre. We have also increased the number of young people from local High Schools coming in on work experience and this has proved popular with the clients as they get to mix with the younger generation bringing a new dynamic to the activities. Two Health & Social Care College students, on longer term placements are also joining us this year.

On the whole a busy year with challenges not least the winter weather emergency during which we gave invaluable support to the most vulnerable ensuring supplies of food and other support when the City came to a standstill. Linda M Wright

I always look for an inspirational quote to end my report and this year is no exception – I hope this quote by Paul Shane Spear inspires you who read it to help us to make that difference to the lives of our older people.

"As one person I cannot change the world, but I can change the world of one person."

Acknowledgements

On behalf of our Clients we would like to say Thank You to the following people or organisations for their support over the last year :-

Age Scotland, Breast Cancer Care, City of Edinburgh Council Health & Social Care Department, City of Edinburgh Council Museums, Councillors Burgess, Mackenzie, Perry & Rose, Friends of Prestonfield Project, Jim Eadie MSP, HC Wright Garden & Landscaping, Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Service, Lothian & Borders Police, Lothian Community Transport Service, NHS Lothian Dementia Co-ordinator, NHS Lothian Workforce Development Unit, Prostrate Cancer Support, Robertson Trust, South Central Neighbourhood Partnership, South Edinburgh Amenities Group, Christie Family, Flannigan Family, Tom Gilzean, VOCAL, Warner's Solicitors.

A Word from the Chairperson.....

Welcome to the latest Annual Report of Prestonfield Neighbourhood Project which I hope will give you a brief insight into the work undertaken here over the past year. Funding for last year was stable however we again face a difficult future as spending cuts start to bite into the grants we currently receive and the costs of running services increase.

Working with the Co-ordinator, the Management have restructured once again and when possible not replaced staff who have left and reduced the hours of existing staff to keep costs down.

All the work here is supported by our faithful volunteers. Some have been with us many years others especially our younger volunteers come for a while then move on but we are indebted to all of them for the help and care they give to our clients - and indeed make a difference to the lives of our clients and gain skills themselves which can hopefully give them a career in the care sector

I wish to thank everyone who has contributed to the Project in any way over this past year.

2012 will take the Project into its 21st year of giving service to the older people in the Community – Lets hope it is a 21st Birthday to celebrate.

Moira O'Neill



The Project gets a visit from Jim Eadie the new MSP for Edinburgh Southern



The Project visits the Scottish Mining Museum



**Making Poppy wreaths for Remembrance**



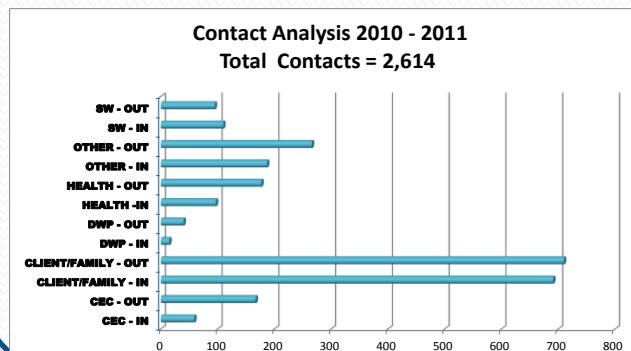
**Christmas Lunch 2011**

### Some Project Statistics

In the past year we have received 122 new client referrals.

At the date of writing this report we had 113 clients a week receiving Day and/or Advice Service.

The Project Workers also raised the income to clients by a record £53,262.20. A significant sum.



### What the clients say

*Jimmy says.....staying at home is no good – I come for the meals and people to chat to. I like the quizzes and dominoes – I have a new hobby, my art – I have my art made into cards and calendars as gifts for my friends. Although sometimes I like to do things on my own in the Centre – I am not alone.*



*Maddie and Rose said .....they come here because we meet people, we talk, we have more social contacts. Maddie said I do art which I enjoy. Both said the food is good but mostly we enjoy having a blether and find we have things in common – we are very happy here.*



*Liz says .....I feel great coming here, company, activities and I found a hobby – my art. I don't want to be a burden on my family – a sentiment shared by Chrissie who said..... When you are on your own with no immediate family you are glad of the company – my family work and live by the clock - it makes me feel independent of the family coming here, I feel free here.*



*Isa says ..... I like it here because I am not looking at four walls, I am meeting people, everyone is friendly.*



*Margaret says..... I'm cheerier, coming here takes away your boredom. I can't go out alone and because I come here I like to think I can do something on my own.*



*Jack says .....coming here makes a difference to me – it gives me something to look forward to and is a change to the way of life I am living.*



**We also spoke to one of our volunteers Lena who has been with the Project for three years now about the difference coming here makes to her life.**



*Lena says ....I enjoy the work and get great satisfaction out of helping the clients. I enjoy meeting them and working with them – having a laugh - it keeps me well. I get low and ill when I am not in as I am stuck in the house with nothing to do. I also get help and support from the office when I need it.*

### **Celebrating the Royal Wedding**



### **The Scalamobile & Scalaport**

This year the Project fundraised to purchase a Scalamobile & Scalaport which is a hydraulic device used by a carer to enable clients in wheelchairs to climb up or down stairs. To our knowledge we are the only Day Service in the City offering this type of service. The equipment can also be used to enable clients in upper flats with mobility difficulties to be transferred into the wheelchair and Scalamobile to negotiate stairs.

