

Notes of the Volunteer meeting held on 26th July 2011

Present: William McCall, Carey Watford, Andrew Hazzard, Mike Andrews, Jessica True, Robyn Guillame-Smith, David Rye, Pauline Rogers, Nick Harvey and Janie Cottle.

Apologies: Amy Hunter, Andrew Lody, Duncan Twigg, Lexy Rose, Tris Smith

1. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and Pauline explained that the intention is to have volunteer meetings on a regular basis to support volunteers in their role in the running and development of Woking Mind.
2. An additional part of this structured approach is to develop a handbook for new volunteers and Pauline described some of the areas that the handbook would cover. A draft will be made available for volunteers and the quality group to comment on. The importance of feedback from both our newest and our longer standing volunteers was stressed.
3. David summarised the potential impact of changes to national and local policies and future funding and how this could relate to Woking Mind.
4. Janie spoke of the importance of further developing partnerships with other organisations so that Woking Mind can increase the number of activities it engages with out in community settings.
5. Carey raised the issue of regularly reviewing the content of the activity programme and of developing it to meet the needs of current members. It has been noted that more women now attend the drop-in centres. With an increased number of younger people too, it has been observed that more activities that encourage mixing between generations would be of value. Janie also felt that the 'healthy living' project should be adapted to a 'life skills' programme.
6. The register for July has shown that 99 members come in to the drop-in centre at least once a month and that as many as 45 people can come on any one day.

Any other business:

Robyn asked whether it would be possible to develop a training programme for new volunteers to cover different aspects of mental health. This was agreed to be a good idea which will be followed through.

Future meetings: There was a discussion regarding the timing of future meetings as the meeting does take volunteers away from the drop-in centre. After some discussion it was agreed that volunteers would take it in turn to run an activity at the time of the meeting and be appraised of content immediately afterwards.

Everyone was thanked for attending.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6th September 2011 at 11.00hrs