



Forum Meeting
01/06/09

Apologies

Annette baker
Linda Sowden
Sue Sampson
Jeni Packer
Colin Harvey
Anne Sloan
Connie Finn
Valeska Matziel
Yvonne Douglas

Present

Edward Potts
Nazir Ahmed
Akhtar Mashad
Fazal Ilhali
Sue Lynn
Salma Ahmed
Pat Song
A.Mustafa
S.Kashif
Shail Chandihock
C.Singh
Ambrose Moses
Alma Pennington
Gaynor Morgan
Kaye Joyce
Norine Mottershead
Lillian Doyle
Ann Kelly
Denise Jackson
Lyudmila Romanova
Pauline Gordon

Gillian Hull
Safeena Ishan
Mrs.M.Sandler
Mr.M.Sandler
Robina Ahmed
Bashira Bibi
Zarina Bibi
Rehana
Parveen
Surinder Bhakar
Catriona Roussell
Anthony Mintern
U.Ali
David Worthington
Jerry Benjamin
Ayesha Ali
Deidre Peddie
Maragart Wright

Introduction

Dave welcomed Gaynor, the Chair of the meeting. Gaynor introduced herself and explained a little about her experience as a carer and how she became involved with MCF.

Dave gave an update on the health of Linda Sowden. Linda has had Quadruple Heart bi-Pass surgery and has moved to live with her son. Sadly she suffered a further heart attack but was discharged after a short stay. Since returning home Linda has had another heart attack and is now in Stepping Hill Hospital. She sends her love and best wished to all.

Dave also gave an apology on behalf of MCF regarding the late delivery of the newsletter. All staff tried their utmost to get it out on time but due to a delay with the courier we were unable to post out on time.

Minutes of meeting 11/05/09

The minutes of the meeting 11/05/09 were proposed by Denise Jackson and seconded by Faizal Ilhali.

Matters Arising

Dave Williams (Project Manager)

Dave delivered the Project Managers Report. Dave commented on how good it is to see such a wide variety of carers and how nice it is to hear Gaynor's personal experience of MCF and caring. Dave highlighted the important role carers play in saving the Government millions each year and caring for those they love with compassion. Carers are not 'just carers' it is an invaluable lifelong role.

Carers UK and MP's recently met with Gordon Brown to discuss the important role played by carers and how the Carers Allowance is simply not enough. People care out of love but they should not have to live in poverty as a result.

The past month has been a busy one for MCF. Dave recently attended a 'Serious and Untoward Incident Meeting' regarding mental health issues at the Link. Much of this meeting is bound by confidentiality so a great deal may not be discussed but the important point is that MCF are attending such meetings and carers are represented at this level.

Carers are also attending interviews on Thursday to aid in the decision making process. Gaynor and Lillian have already been involved in the process.

Continued pressure has been applied to the P.C.T to ascertain where the funding for breaks held in their budget will be spent. A meeting has been held regarding the issue and the concerns discussed will be brought to the next MCF Trustee board meeting

Carers have also been asked to guide the courses offered at the School of Nursing & Midwifery of The University of Manchester. Carers are already involved in guiding the Social Work course.

MCF has secured funding for this financial year. We are now focused on the tendering process and are in discussions with a business developer. The work of the Forum and its good reputation precedes us and we will continue to work to the highest standards regardless of funding.

Dave reported on the recent presentation delivered by Khent regarding his research into the Mental Health of Young Carers. The presentation was well delivered and received. The research will be publicised later this year.

Nat O'Brien (Acting Deputy Manager)

Nat gave an update on the services available to Carers.

- There are places available on the Book Group which meets on the third Wednesday of the Month.
- The Allotments are currently very busy due to the good weather and MCF secured funding from the Carers Grant in order to provide raised beds and compost bins. On Tuesday the 9th June there is a development day planned at which Addleshaw Goddard Solicitors will be volunteering.
- There is a trip to the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park planned for July (as part of the allotment project). This trip is intended initially for those involved in the allotment project but there are more places which you may apply for if interested.
- More Carers computer sessions are in place for the coming weeks as sessions have in the past proved very popular.
- Carers Weeks will see a number of services provided. There will be a number of information stalls erected across Manchester including Wythenshawe Hospital, Outpatients and MRI. The Carers Strategy Team also has stalls planned for Harpurhey and Wythenshawe Market as well as the Manchester Arndale Market. A feel good pamper day is also planned and you can pre-book on the number provided.
- Thriller Live tickets are available and will be assigned via a free prize draw. Call the office to put your name down.
- There is an 'end of life' carer's consultation planned for the 9th July. Call the office to express interest.
- The walking group has a trip to Dunham Massey planned. This trip will act as a walk for the walking group and also carers may attend simply for a day out. There are places available on the day out.
- Young Carers have a 'Picnic in the Park' session coming up and are also taking a group of 8 Young Carers to Laser Quest during Carers Week.

Val Bayliss Brideaux & Janette (End of Life Care)

Janette

Janette was a District Macmillan Community Nurse and now works for the PCT to ensure they 'successfully support carers/cared for during the end of life'. This support is provided both before during and after the death of the cared for. It is important not to cease support following the death of a cared for person as this is very difficult time.

There are a range of services available in community hospitals and hospices and the Government realise the importance of the issue. Of the utmost importance is maintaining the dignity and respect of carers and cared for, and the views of carers are welcomed and sorely needed.

Val Bayliss Brideaux

Val works in the community for Manchester NHS. Two workshops are planned in Wythenshawe and Whalley Range and views may also be provided via e-mail or through a one-to-one meeting with Val.

Val would love to hear about carers personal experiences both good and bad and recognises that some carers may not know how to access support or where to find support/help. This needs to change and through the views and evaluation of services via carers it can.

Important factors are the respect and dignity of all involved. Religion and nationality can also play a role, for example a number of older men from the Irish community are found to be unsupported. It is recognised that support must continue after death and not simply cease.

Other issues which have been highlighted relate to information sharing and letting carers know where support is. It is also important the medical staff involved communicate with carers and that medication given to those at the end of their life is not labelled 'end of life' but that the situation is dealt with tact and discretion.

The views provided at consultation events will be used to guide services and support and will not be ignored. If you wish to be involved you may attend either of the consultation events or provide views via email. You can also contact Val to arrange a one-to-one meeting and discuss your opinions.

Questions

David Worthington highlighted the role that the living alone scheme could have in aiding carers. This can provide bogus caller detectors for carers who live alone.

Denise Jackson commented on the use of mixed wards in Manchester Hospitals. Denise told of a friend who at the end of their life was placed on a mixed ward despite her view that she wished to be moved. Janette agreed that this is an important issue and should be considered. It is matter of respect and dignity and some feel that on a mixed ward this is compromised. Val and Janette work independently from the hospitals and will push for change.

Further issues were raised regarding the role of carers when the cared for is hospitalised. A carer recalled being asked to keep an eye on her husband whilst he was admitted to hospital in order to help stop him wandering. The carer in bid to help the situation provided her husband with his manual wheelchair as apposed to his electric version, and was accused of denying his liberty.

Val highlighted that incidents like this should not be occurring, where carers are asked to do the job of hospital staff. Instead hospitals should work more closely with carers to draw up a care plan and take on the views and techniques of carers in order to provide the best support for the cared for whilst hospitalised.

Janette agreed that it is important to communicate with carers and take on board their input. Janette also highlighted the impact caring may have on carers health.

Maxine queried why there was not a questionnaire or guide sheet that carers can complete when leaving hospitals in order to report on their experiences. Val explained that she was unable to answer on behalf of hospitals but agreed that it would seem to be a good idea.

NHS Manchester Pals

Val strongly supports this scheme. They can send out information on support, advocacy and guidance.

Jerry Benjamin however raised the complaint that often when you call you are left with the answering machine. Val accepted that on some occasions you may get the answering machine when you call but if this happens the team will always get back to you within 24 hours. If it ever occurs that this is not the case Val will tackle the issue.

Valeska Matziel

Dave passed on Valeska's apologies.

Deidre Peddie-Epilepsy Action

Deidre is a full time carer for her daughter who has epilepsy. Epilepsy Action is running a concert event on Saturday 7th June in the Emanuel Church in Didsbury. The event is free (donations welcomed) and information regarding Epilepsy available.

The South Manchester Branch of Epilepsy meets on the third Thursday in the month at Park House, 73 Northenden Rd, Sale, M33 2DG, from 7:30pm till 9pm.

A.O.B

The next meeting is to be held on the 1st July 2009. There will be no meeting in August.