

OLDER PERSONS SERVICE AT BELL FARM CHRISTIAN CENTRE

REASON FOR ITEM

Below is a brief information item provided by Jane Cook, Director of Projects at Bell Farm Christian Centre, following the Member visit held on Tuesday 17 October 2017.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

To consider the report as part of the ongoing review into loneliness and social isolation in older residents.

Older Persons

Aims and Objectives

- To provide a lunch and social club on one day per week.
- To provide outreach to the isolated older people in the community.
- To provide other activities to the older people in the community.
- To provide or obtain services for the older people in response to need.
- To share the Gospel with and provide pastoral care to the older people.
- Where appropriate, to provide support to the families and carers of older persons.

In the past year the Older Persons Lunch and Social club has continued to be a great success providing a healthy two course meal, the opportunity and socialise and an activity on a weekly basis. There are currently 96 regular members who have attended the luncheon club with three mini buses having been in operation each Tuesday to pick members up and take them back home. There are an additional 29 individuals who have come on trips and holidays. There is also a waiting list of people wanting to attend the luncheon club.

There are lots of different activities or entertainment that takes place each week for the club members to enjoy. Over the past year these have included:

Arts and craft classes
Weekly raffle
Green Fingers
Reminiscence classes
Musical sing-along
Live entertainment
Cinema afternoon

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The Queens 90th birthday celebrations
Valentines party
Easter party
Christmas party
Mobile clothes shop

Day trips away have also been provided including additional trips for disabled older persons to Eastbourne, Worthing Margate, a pantomime, Windsor boat trip, Christmas lunch and a trip to see the Christmas lights in central London. A holiday took place to Folkestone.

Holidays are organised twice a year which have proved very popular. This is arranged through a holiday company to ensure the holiday is well organised and costs kept to a minimum. Places that have been visited have been the Isle of Wight and Devon. People attending the holiday club have valued the companionship, being on holiday and having fun.

Partnership work with the Doorway Advice Centre which is one of the projects at B.F.C.C. ensures that if people need help with their benefits then that is available. Following a referral to the luncheon club the manager of older person's service assesses people at home which includes an assessment of their financial situation. If a person is unable to attend the luncheon club or trips due to financial hardship then the fees for this would be waived and paid for by Bell Farm Christian Centre. Also any older person in financial need can also access the foodbank run by BFCC which is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The club has continued to reduce loneliness and isolation among the older population.

A trip to Margate



Outreach Work

Over the past year the Older Persons' Manager has been visiting the isolated older persons in the community. These will have been referred by Age UK, Social Services or families. The Manager also visited Club members who have at times needed support or

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even if they have just felt lonely and wanted someone to talk to – as often happens. The Manager also has supported older persons who have been at risk in the community and alongside other agencies has successfully moved clients into safer sheltered housing where there has been a consequential improvement in the quality of their lives. The Manager carried out 82 home visits, 20 hospital visits, has attended 3 funerals and is available by phone for those members who have emergencies and need support, especially where they have no family or their family lives a considerable distance away.

Volunteers

The Older Persons’ Lunch and Social Club relies heavily on the hard work of the dedicated team of volunteers. There are currently 10 volunteers who help out each week and do a fantastic job.

Comments from Service Users

“So far it’s wonderful, good work”

“It is fantastic and does a lot for Drayton Village Care Centre, they love it.”

“The lunch club serves a much needed facility, something to look forward to, the benefits are indescribable”

“I think the club is great. I like everything about it”

“People are always friendly”



The main hall prepared for the older persons’ Christmas lunch

Total Service Users	Disabled	Male	Female	LBH Residents
125	36%	26%	74%	98%

Ethnicity

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White British	Black British	Asian	Eastern European	European	Other White	Black Caribbean
89.6%	0	1.6%	0%	0%	0.8%	1.6%
Black African	Indian	Pakistani	Mixed Race	Irish	Any other ethnic background	Not recorded
0%	1.6%	0%	0%	3.2%	1.6%	0%

Support at Christmas

On Christmas Day a lunch and other activities were provided for individuals who otherwise would have been alone on Christmas Day. The day included a full Christmas lunch, games, other activities and gifts for all. The event was provided by volunteers and funded by personal donations. 40 people attended the event, 15 of whom were over 65 years of age and one of whom was disabled.

Factors affecting the achievement of the objectives of the organisation are as follows:

1. The position of the organisation within the wider community. BFCC has a very good relationship with the local community, including good working relationships with the local Members of Parliament, Ward Councillors and other agencies working in the area. This provides a good platform for partnership working.
2. BFCC has a very good relationship with members of the local community and many members of the local community are very happy to be able to attend the activities and services that are provided at the Centre. This is particularly good for the sections of the community that are particularly marginalised and vulnerable. The Organisation is pleased that some of these groups such as the Travellers and migrants feel able to attend the activities.
3. BFCC has a good relationship with funders. Agencies and funders have often approached BFCC to see if they would deliver services on their behalf if funding was provided, or to work in partnership with them to deliver services.
4. BFCC has a good, hardworking and loyal work force and all its members of staff are highly motivated and committed to the work that they do.
5. BFCC has a hard working and loyal group of volunteers who help deliver the services to the local community.

JE.Cook Director of Projects
17th October 2017

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