

ASHFORD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD: REPORT FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE - Agenda Item No.8

Representation

In December, CASE Kent, the voluntary and community sector infrastructure body which covers the Ashford area, nominated people from the voluntary sector locally to represent the sector on the boards of local statutory bodies.

Tracy Dighton, of Ashford Counselling Service, is the representative on the Ashford Health and Wellbeing Board; Anne Puttick and Shirley Leslie of CRUSE are the representatives on the Health and Social Care Integration Steering Project. There is no representative of the sector on the Ashford Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). However, Martin Harvey, the lay representative on this group will work with the sector and provide a route for liaison.

CASEKent and Ashford Volunteer Centre have created a steering group to take forward engagement with the statutory sector. The representatives listed above will work as part of this group. The group has met twice.

Determining the needs of the sector

CASEKent has developed a survey, which will be circulated as widely as possible within the sector, to map the organisations who work alongside the statutory sector organisations. It considers the size and scope of the organisations and the services they provide and the impact of their services on beneficiaries.

The responses will be used to generate a report which will highlight key issues for beneficiaries and the local voluntary sector's priorities for working with the statutory sector. The report will consider its findings in light of the four priority themes identified by Ashford CCG: dementia, healthy minds (young people), managing chronic conditions and admission avoidance schemes. It will highlight 3-4 case studies of organisations working with people in some of these groups. It will provide examples to illustrate good relationships between the two sectors and outline cases where commissioning has worked well, including bringing in ideas from elsewhere in the county and the rest of the UK. The aim is to provide clarity on what support the local voluntary sector needs from the statutory sector using the case studies as illustrations of practice that could be applied across the sector.

The group is working to a deadline of mid March for completing the report.

Tracy Dighton, General Manager of Ashford Counselling Service, through the offices of CASE Kent.

