The 22nd NDVA AGM began with Heather Fawbert, Chair of NDVA presenting the NDVA Accounts and Annual Report.

Heather said “It has been gratifying to hear feedback from members and stakeholders throughout the year saying how valued NDVA’s services are and to have confirmation that the Health and Social Care Voluntary Sector across Derbyshire appreciates having a specialist infrastructure organisation to inform, support and represent them”.

She also expressed thanks to the NDVA team for their hard work and on-going commitment to improve communication and integration between the Voluntary Sector and Health and Social Care professionals.

NDVA would like to welcome Rona Rawson (Federation of Mental Health) and Julie Dixon (Chesterfield Timebank) to the Board and thank Jackie King-Owen (Enable Housing) for her many years of valued service. Jackie resigned from the Board in August due to work commitments.
Sarah Swift, Everybody Hurts gave a very passionate and emotional presentation about her own experience of child to parent abuse and how she found there was little support available. It’s fair to say Sarah’s personal story touched everyone present and there were many words of encouragement and support pledged for the new group.

Everybody Hurts is the first group of its kind in the Country to support parents and other family members who are being abused by their children. The group, which has been running for about 5 months, meet once a month in Staveley. Everybody Hurts has received initial funding from NDVA and DORA and, in time, plan to run support groups across the County. To contact Sarah tel 07582 175435 or email: everybodyhurts-derbyshire@hotmail.com

Ed Ronayne, Adult Safeguarding Manager, NHS Derbyshire County and Derby City explained the Government’s counter terrorism strategy ‘CONTEST’ and how it aims to reduce the number of people becoming terrorists.

The four principles of CONTEST are Protect, Prepare, Pursue and Prevent.

Focusing on ‘Prevent’; Ed gave examples of how vulnerable people are at risk of being targeted by terrorists and that NHS frontline staff are being trained to spot any signs of radicalisation. If the circumstances that cause someone to commit a terrorist attack can be identified, it is possible to intervene and stop vulnerable people being drawn into terrorism.

‘Channel’ is a key element of the Prevent strategy. It is an early intervention, multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. ‘Channel’ uses existing collaboration between GP’s, social services, children’s and youth services, the police and the local community to:

a) identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
b) assess the nature and extent of that risk
c) develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Referrals can also be made anonymously by dialling 101.

Niki Cartwright, Chief Transformation Officer and Pam Purdue, Head of Engagement for North Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NDCCCG) explained ‘Call to Action’ and set a challenge to the Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) and health care professionals to engage and share ideas. She explained how the NHS we have today was designed 65 years ago and emphasised it has been so successful at keeping people alive; we have an ever increasing number of older people who will need support in the future. The NHS will need to make sure it can meet these future demands. Therefore, the way services are commissioned needs to change in order to maintain services. NDCCCG feel the Voluntary Sector in Derbyshire is at the heart of local communities and in order to tap into it they will need to work with closely with voluntary groups to increase understanding and engagement.
Niki told the Forum that North Derbyshire CCG want to focus on outcomes commissioning and are hoping to move to three year funding arrangements. A recently commissioned NDVA audit of GP Practice’s engagement with their local voluntary and community groups has been well received (a copy of the report can be obtained from NDVA) and she was pleased to announce NDCCG have decided to pilot a VCS Single Point of Access in North Derbyshire.

Clare Neill, Cabinet Member for Adult Care concluded the Forum with a thought provoking and worrying presentation on Future Commissioning.

She told us that Derbyshire County Council (DCC) has to make £127 million budget cuts over the next 5 years plus an unexpected further increase in Government cuts to the Council’s budget of £30 million. This means a total of £157 million in spending cuts - £57 million of which will be cut out of the Adult Care budget, which funds many Voluntary and Community Organisations across Derbyshire (£18 million has to be taken out of next year’s Adult Care budget). Clare explained the Cabinet are trying to prioritise the remaining budget and channel it towards the poor and vulnerable. There will be a phased approach to the cuts and the Council’s own house will be put in order before making any frontline cuts. The Leader of the Council, Anne Western, has set up the Challenge Fund to identify savings that can be made i.e. chauffeurs, hospitality budgets etc. These savings will support initiatives for health and social care to work together.

A balanced budget for the financial year 2014/15 must be signed off by February 2014. Failure to set a balanced budget could result in the removal of DCC’s Cabinet and replacement by a management team from Central Government. Decisions about what Adult Care will look like in 2018/20 will be being made at the same time as budgets are being decided.

Clare concluded by saying she previously worked for Oxfam and has seen the level of professionalism that charities have. She understands the Voluntary Sector has a lot to offer and is committed to listening. A question and answer session followed.

What happens next?

Consultation with Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) about the future shape of Adult Social Care will take place between now and the end of the year with a formal review of service funding in the New Year. To find out more about the Derbyshire Challenge go to: http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/council_tax/challenge/default.asp

As a result of Clare’s presentation

NDVA and the Southern Health & Social Care Forum decided to come together to hold a special Countywide consultation meeting on 18th November 2013. A report will follow - contact NDVA for details.
The six-monthly Joint County-wide Mental Health Forum was held on September 24th at the Postmill Centre South Normanton.

At this meeting NDVA’s Voluntary Sector Mental Health Network and Southern Derbyshire Voluntary Sector Mental Health Forum (SDVSMHF) come together to meet with the commissioners. On this occasion 40 representatives from 34 organisations attended.

The first speaker was Sue Whetton (Commissioning Manager for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities at Derbyshire County Council Adult Care Department) who spoke on ‘A new Vision for Mental Health in Derbyshire’.

She told the meeting that DCC is currently revising the Derbyshire Mental Health Strategy to reflect all the changes in health and social care services and commissioning in recent years. NDVA and SDVSMHF are representing Voluntary Sector interests in this process and there will be wider consultation with the Voluntary Sector in due course.

Sue warned delegates that the Council faces cuts in its funding from Central Government of £157 million over five years.

James Lee, Manager Links (Chesterfield and North-east Derbyshire CVS) spoke about the Black and Minority Ethnic Mental Health Community Scheme (discussed in earlier issues) and invited organisations to become involved.

The final speaker was David Gardner, Head of Procurement Mental Health at Hardwick CCG. David told the meeting that Hardwick CCG were maintaining their strategic lead for mental health and learning disabilities, but other CCGs are taking on responsibility for mental health within their own areas and producing their own plans and priorities.

There is a new Commissioning Officer, Claire Burnage who will be replacing Raj Kang on the Voluntary Sector contracts.
There is a general move to reduce the money spent in acute hospitals and increase the amount spent in the community. There will be a focus on outcomes and integrating services. Positive narrative statements and service users’ stories will help groups to illustrate outcomes. Decisions about all day-care and social inclusion services in all sectors will have to be made at some point, but the CCG is not looking at substantial changes to contracts in the coming year.

Stigma, discrimination and some mental health facts

Although there was widespread public outcry over the issue of the Asda and Tesco Halloween costumes it would seem that there is still discrimination in physical health outcomes.

A recent report commissioned by Rethink called ‘Lethal Discrimination’ states:

- a third of all avoidable deaths in the UK are of people with a mental health problem
- people with serious mental health problems die 20 years younger than the general population
- 40% of all tobacco smoked is by people with a mental health problem, but they are less likely to be given support to quit
- on average, people on anti-psychotic drugs gain 6kg in weight, but in some areas 70% are not given regular weight monitoring

There are still examples of stigma and discrimination coming from the press. Last month The Sun chose as its front page headline “1,200 killed by mental patients, shock 10-year toll exposes care crisis”

The ‘National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness’, published by Manchester University, showed that between 2001 and 2011 homicides committed by people with mental illness had fallen. In England in 2011 for example 46 people had been killed by people with mental illness, whereas there had been 1,333 suicides of people with mental health problems.

A joint report from Victim Support and Mind said “in one year 45% of those with a severe mental illness had been victims of crime.”

Georgina Horobin

Many of you will know Georgina who has worked for the NHS for forty years and for at least the last seven years has been closely involved with the Voluntary Sector in her work with the mental health commissioning team. Georgina is retiring at Christmas and we would all like to wish her well in her retirement and let her know that her work with our sector has been much appreciated.

David Gardner
It was May 1996 when The Volunteer Centre opened for business in Clay Cross with funding to provide for the economically impoverished area of North East Derbyshire. It had a very simple remit - to provide a brokerage service for people looking for volunteering. We didn’t match, we simply gave people as much information as possible so that they could make an informed choice about the type of volunteering they wished to do. Despite being specifically aimed at North East Derbyshire we soon found that we were at our busiest when we provided the service in The Market Hall in Chesterfield on two afternoons a week.

The original funding was for just two years, progression after that meant that funding would have to be sort from outside agencies - the fact that I’m writing this now - some 17 years after opening our doors proves that we have been successful in keeping open the Centre and providing a service to Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire.

Over the years we have provided an array of direct services which have been extremely successful and provided exciting and innovative volunteering opportunities for our local communities. The ‘Youth Opportunities Ltd’ project was a youth project aimed at helping young people design, deliver and manage their own volunteering projects in their own communities. We also had The Youth Mentoring Scheme, which recruited and trained volunteers to work with young people on the verge of exclusion from school, providing them with a positive role model who assisted them to access affordable after school activities and help keep them engaged in school.

We have run equally successful volunteering initiatives with people with mental health problems, people with learning and physical disabilities and ex offender mentoring. Current direct services include: ‘Elderfriends’, aimed at befriending lonely and socially isolated people across the area; ‘Community Health Champions Project’; aimed at people over the age of 16, living in areas of deprivation to help them improve their health and wellbeing and ‘Diabetes Mentoring Project’; which provides a mentor on a short term basis to help people newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes to manage their condition in a more effective way.

Volunteering can be tremendously beneficial for anyone, regardless of age or ability. As well as our brokerage role to potential volunteers, we also provide support to organisations within Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire and we provide the 5 other core functions of a Volunteer Centre as laid down by Volunteering England/NCVO.

These are:
- Marketing Volunteering
- Good Practice Development
- Developing Volunteering Opportunities
- Policy Response and Campaigning
- Strategic Development of Volunteering

With a small staff team it can be difficult to cover all five functions all of the time however, In terms of numbers, the Volunteer Centre saw over 2,000 potential volunteers this year and it seems that this number grows every year. So if anyone tells you volunteering is declining, don’t believe them! Actual contacts to The Centre, including organisations seeking assistance were nearly 4,500—aagain a massive amount for a small team to deal with and equates to around 375 people contacting the Centre every month.
The Elderfriends Project came to life from when an old lady walked into the Volunteer Centre back in 1999 stating she wanted a volunteer for her, as she was lonely. It wasn’t something we were used to dealing with but quickly realised that if one person dared to walk in and ask, then there must be many more that felt similar but did not dare or know how to ask for our assistance. After a little searching we acquired funding to run a small project aimed at alleviating social isolation for elderly people. It was hugely successful and after seeing the benefits the Primary Care Trust, together with Social Services, funded us through The Joint Working Fund.

Our project is specifically designed to help people be less isolated and more independent. A combination of factors such as failing health (physical and mental), low income, poor mobility, fear of crime, the virtual extinction of the extended family, dwindling friendship groups and bereavement, all often conspire to isolate people as they grow older.

Loneliness and social isolation can have a tremendously detrimental effect on someone’s life and can be a major cause of unhappiness and contribute towards depression and mental illness in older age. Befriending may not be a radical solution to social exclusion, however the work of volunteer befrienders does improve the worst aspects of isolation and exclusion from community participation.

The project aims to keep people as independent as possible while keeping them in their own homes and assisting them in accessing amenities within their communities. It is a simple premise but an extremely beneficial and effective one.

Four years ago we were receiving around 30 referrals a year into the project. Now, with the cutback to social services, we are receiving over 100 referrals a year. We also receive a tremendous amount of requests for a shopping service, gardening, home helps etc, all activities we would love to provide but, at the moment simply do not have the resources in place to be able to do so.
Spotlight on...

The Community Health Champions Project

The Community Health Champions Project was initially a two year tender funded by CHART LSP through NHS. We won the tender and with a good deal of hard work and forward planning, we not only hit the targets but beat them easily. So much so that we were encouraged to increase our year 2 targets and once again more than matched those targets and were consequently given a contract for a 3rd year.

The Project’s original brief was to provide a buddying system for people wishing to improve their own health.

We had referrals from people wishing to do more exercise and so set up a ‘Walking for Health’ group from The Volunteer Centre which again was a great way for people, not just to exercise, but also make friends in the process. We have also done a tremendous amount of multi-agency work over the last three years, working with Affordable Warmth, Extra Time Project, Health Improvement etc. The list is endless as health encompasses every aspect of this project. We were particularly involved with the cancer awareness campaign; a big part of this was to make women over 70 aware of the dangers of breast cancer as screening stops for women over that age.

We also set up two Health and Well Being Days, which were particularly well attended.

Diabetic Mentoring Project

This is our latest project: Around 18 months ago I was invited to Hardwick Clinical Commissioning Groups QUEST where it was identified that Diabetes care took a huge proportion of the medical budget. Following an unsuccessful bid to find funding, we came to an agreement with Hardwick CCG to provide a pilot project for a year, specifically aimed at people who had been newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.

This is an extremely new and innovative project and although there have been similar projects run in the United States, there has been nothing in this Country until last year when a project in London reported its findings.
So there it is - your very own Volunteer Centre and some of what it provides. We may not shout about what we do from the highest roof top, but as long as we have the desired effect then I’m sure we’ll be around for some time to come.

Our latest, and perhaps some might argue, most grandiose venture, was to initiate the Voluntary Sector Awards for Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire. We thought it was time to celebrate the great work that goes on across our area and a packed house at The Pomegranate Theatre seemed to agree.

Dave Radford, Manager, The Volunteer Centre Chesterfield.

If you would like to know more about The Volunteer Centre or any of their projects call 01246 276777 or go to www.chesterfieldvc.org.uk

Voluntary Sector Awards - A Hit!

The first ever Voluntary Sector Awards for Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire were held at the Pomegranate Theatre. With nearly 300 people in attendance the evening opened with a play called “Billy Watkins Trousers” written by David Radford and performed by students from Springwell Community College.

There were 10 awards on the night and the winners were:

- **Outstanding Contribution to the Voluntary Sector** - Lynn Tory (pictured above) with David Radford.
- **Organisation of the Year** - CRUSE Bereavement Care (income under £25,000), Chesterfield Credit union (income £25,000 - £100,000) and RSV Meals with Care (income over £100,000). Other
- **Bolsover Organisation of the Year** - Limestone Journeys
- **Young Volunteer of the Year** - Thomas Anderson, Chesterfield Volunteer Centre
- **Volunteer Long Service Award** - Audrey Carlin, Tinnitus Support Group.
- **Volunteer of the Year Award** - Michelle Raymond Barker, Credit Union
- **Staff Long Service Award** - Colin Hampton, Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centres
- **Most Innovative Project award** - Loundsley Green Olympic Gala, Loundsley Green Community Trust.
NDVA are moving!

On Tuesday 3rd December 2013 after 20 months, we are returning to our old Market Hall office. Our address will be:

NDVA, Office 2a, The Market Hall, Chesterfield S40 1AR

(Please note the change of office number).

Telephone and email addresses will be the same: Tel: 01246 555908, Email: info@ndva.org.uk

Blythe House Hospice

The weeks before Christmas can be a special time of year but, for many people who have lost someone close to them, it may be a time of sadness. Light up a Life provides a unique opportunity to remember and reflect on someone special who has died or a happy occasion.

To celebrate lives and remember loved ones, Blythe House is once again inviting you to dedicate lights in support of this year’s Light up a Life appeal. All donations received will allow the Hospice to continue its vital work.

You can see the dedicated starry white lights shining in and around the hospice.

To dedicate a light or for more details about the Light up a Life Appeal contact the Hospice on 01298 815388.

Derbyshire Alcohol Advice Service (DAAS)

Is alcohol misuse a factor in the lives of the people you work with?

Research has shown that the more you know about alcohol, the more confident you will feel supporting people to make changes

Course dates for 2014:
14th and 28th January, 11th and 25th February, 11th and 25th March

This FREE one day course covers:
• Facts about alcohol; myths, units and safe limits
• Short and long term information about the physical effects of alcohol
• Definitions; such as binge drinking, high risk drink and dependency
• Brief interventions such as the cycle of change, drink diaries, decisional balance sheets and working towards change
• Services available and how to refer

See www.daas.uk.com for further information and to book your place or call 01246 206514.
Voluntary Sector & NHS Joint Workshop

Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

On November 6th Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (CRHFT) and NDVA hosted a joint workshop event around 5 themes: Heart Disease, Dementia, End of life, Diabetes, and Carers. The purpose of the Workshop was to:

• develop relationships
• identify the advantages of integrating the Voluntary Sector into Care Pathways
• look at overcoming barriers.

The Workshop was attended by NDVA member organisations specialising in the 5 themes, Matrons and Nurse Specialists from the Chesterfield Royal Hospital and the Community together with representatives from both North Derbyshire and Hardwick CCGs.

After short presentations from Maxine Simmons (Senior Matron, Practice and Professional Development), Jacqui Willis (NDVA), Matron Glyn Wildman (Dementia Nursing Specialist) and Conrad Foster (Cardiac Nursing Specialist) there were group discussions around the specialist themes which identified some very practical actions about how the Matrons and the Voluntary Sector could work together. Pledges were made to progress the actions into reality. Gavin Boyle, Chief Executive, Chesterfield Royal Hospital, rounded off the event by emphasising the hospitals’ commitment that this is just the beginning and announcing the forthcoming employment of a co-ordinator role to look at how more volunteers can be encouraged into the hospital.

Everybody attending agreed that this should not be a one off event, but the beginning of some constructive partnership working. Notes from the workshop will be made available at a later date.

Staveley Seniors Forum

For the past year, Staveley Seniors Forum has been running an Older Peoples Project at the Healthy Living Centre in Staveley - thanks to a grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

The Project, which includes: chair based exercises, line dancing, yoga, indoor bowls, curling, sauna and swimming has proved very successful, with over 70 elderly people in Staveley taking advantage of the sessions and forming new friendships.

Another success story is their Footcare Clinic held at the Rectory Road Medical Centre in Staveley. The Clinic, held on Tuesday afternoons, has over 100 clients regularly attending the sessions.

There is a small charge for this service which helps to pay the podiatrist.

To find out more contact John on: 01246 473313.
Derbyshire Older Adults Floating Tenancy Support Service

Making Space now offer a housing related floating support service to older people living in Derbyshire Dales and Erewash areas.

The service will be responsive and flexible and include, but not be limited to, support to maintain tenancy/accommodation and independent living and signposting to support services and advocacy.

The floating support service will also provide in and out of hours response to assist clients in emergencies, where clients do not have a support network or their support network may be unavailable (ie family member, carer, neighbour etc). The type of instances could be due to: falls, bereavement, crisis, or following a traumatic event.

For more information call the Floating Tenancy Support Service team 01246 592017.

Do you have something to say about health and social care services?

We want to hear what you think about health and social care services, whether it be praise, criticism or ideas for improvement.

Why talk to Healthwatch Derbyshire?

• we tell services about your experiences of care, which will work towards changing them for the better.
• Service providers have to listen to us, so they will be listening to you.
• Because if we can't help you, we will know someone who can.
• Because we are powerful, well connected and will make sure your voice is heard.

healthwatch Derbyshire

To have your say...

Email: enquiries@healthwatchderbyshire.co.uk
Web: www.healthwatchderbyshire.co.uk
Telephone: 01773 880786
Text: 07943 505255
facebook: @Healthwatch Derbyshire

Are you a carer over 60, care for over 35 hours and live within Derbyshire?

If so you may be entitled to a grant of up to £200. This can be used in any way to make your life a little easier including: a short break, computer, hair appointments or a few hours break.

If you would like to apply call Kelly Gibbons on 01246 222373 or email kelly.gibbons@derbyshirecarers.co.uk

New Telephone Support Service for Carers

Derbyshire Carers Association has a new evening telephone support service for all Carers in Derbyshire on Wednesdays from 4-7pm.

The telephone number for this service is 01773 743355.

It will be available every Wednesday until Christmas however; if there proves to be a demand it will continue. So - please tell any carers you know about this new telephone support service.

Helen’s Trust launches self referrals

Patients can now contact Helen’s Trust directly to access the full range of services on offer. In the past the charity has only accepted referrals via a health care professional.

Chief Executive Heidi Megaughin said, “We want people to contact us directly for help. We pride ourselves on being responsive, flexible and creative in the ways we help people with terminal illness. Each case is unique and often complex. Our skilled referrals coordinators have a clinical background and the package of care we can provide for one individual can often be diverse.”

Referrals have increased since the self referral system was introduced in July.

The charity is seeing an ever increasing need and people are often surprised by the range of services provided.

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from Helen’s Trust services please contact the Referrals Coordinators on: 07780 331715.
Growing Volunteering and Community Support Together

On 1st October, Volunteer Centre Buxton merged with Volunteer Centre Derbyshire Dales to form Voluntary and Community Services Peaks and Dales.

Chief Officers, Sue Howard and Gill Geddes said “This is an exciting time for us. We will still provide all our existing services which are a life line to people in our community, many of which are delivered by our hard working volunteers. The merger gives us the opportunity to develop and offer a wider range of support to more people across the area”.

Anyone who would like to know more about volunteering or need their services contact: Buxton office on 01298 23970 or Ashbourne office 01335 348602.

Mentoring and Befriending

Volunteer Centre Buxton had applied for re-accreditation as an Approved Provider for the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation prior to their merger with Derbyshire Dales Volunteer Centre.

Following their recent accreditation inspection they have just heard that they have been successful. The accreditation looks at all aspects of the Befriending Service including Training, Support and Supervision and Service User satisfaction.

Rachael Mitchell who runs the service said “We are very pleased to achieve the accreditation it emphasises that we give a good service to all our service users”.

Charity Scoops Fire Service Awards

The annual Derbyshire Handy Van Awards, attended by service partners Derbyshire County Council, the Fire Service and the Police, were held in October. The awards highlight the excellent work carried out by the Handy Van Services across Derbyshire.

As providers of the service for High Peak and Derbyshire Dales, the Volunteer Centre Buxton received the joint runner up prize for Provider of the Year and employee Mick Wood received the accolade of Handy Van Operator of the year.

Alistair Rogerson who runs the Service said “This is a fantastic achievement for the Volunteer Centre and shows that older and vulnerable people are receiving an excellent service delivered by people that care”.

Fire Service Awards
Survey reveals public concerns over future hospice care

Over two thirds of people think the demand for hospice care will “rocket” in coming decades because of the UK’s rapidly ageing population.

Almost three quarters (74%) of those polled in this region for the national survey, commissioned by Help The Hospices, believe there will not be enough hospice care in the future to support all of the people who need it. Indeed 16 per cent of people said they were “frightened” there won’t be enough hospice care available in the future to support them or their loved ones.

Ashgate Hospice in Chesterfield is the second largest hospice in the East Midlands with more than 7,000 patient contacts a year. The independent charity provides specialist palliative and end of life care to local people and their families across North Derbyshire and the High Peak and Dales.

Chief Executive Lucy Nickson has backed the survey findings and said: “Ashgate aims to be a 'champion of change' for hospice care in Derbyshire, leading the way through partnership and collaborative working with other health care organisations. We and other hospices in the region, have a major role to play in tackling the demands of an ageing population and helping to transform end of life care across all settings for our local populations. We don’t want anyone to be frightened that there won’t be the hospice care available for them or their loved ones in the future.”

The survey also showed the public view hospices very positively, but few people realise that care is provided in a range of settings beyond hospices themselves. Only a fifth of those surveyed in the East Midlands know it is available in people’s homes where, in fact, the majority of hospice care is provided.

Alongside 21 inpatient beds and an extensively used 16-place day unit, Ashgate has developed innovative care at home services and teams of specialist outreach nurses who work in the community and at Chesterfield Royal Hospital.

For more information about Ashgate Hospice call 01246 568801. Website: www.ashgatehospice.org

Lucy Nickson, Chief Executive, Ashgate Hospice
Enable Celebrates

At Enable, they decided that it we should celebrate our service users’ achievements and successes. Enable’s service users have been very busy reaching their goals and we felt that this should be represented at a Celebration Night! The aim of the night was to award service users who are proud of their achievements with a certificate to say ‘well done!’

Members of Enable’s Friendship Group (a bi-weekly club for elderly Enable service users) were rewarded for their participation in the research paper ‘Leaving Institutions, Voices for Change’. The paper tells the stories of Enable residents who moved out of an institution in Chesterfield into the community. In 1990, Enable moved 141 people out of a hospital in Chesterfield into housing. Many of those people were moved from 30-bed wards to five bedroom houses.

The paper was written by Shaun Webster at Change. Shaun travelled to Eastern Europe with the charity Lumos to see the conditions that people with learning disabilities live in, in institutions. There is currently no option for community living in many of these countries.

The paper shows the best practice when moving people from those facilities into the community. As Enable started as an answer to institutionalisation, their service users are the experts in this topic.

Other awards were given out for a variety of accomplishments including: fantastic artwork, catching a bus independently, fundraising for charity, overcoming fear and many more! Enable held three events across Derbyshire and hope to repeat this next year. Jackie King-Owen, Enable Executive Director said “We’d like to thank everyone involved for making the event a great success”.

Tom Whittaker, Inclusion Officer at Enable said, “Some of the awards might seem simple, such as learning to travel independently, but they are worth celebrating. We like to focus on what people can do.”

To download ‘Leaving Institutions, Voices for Change’ please see: http://www.changepeople.org/free-resources/

Mandy Nichol, Sammy Goodwin and Charlotte David with Terry Wilson who presented the awards.
Chesterfield and North Derbyshire branch of Cruse Bereavement Care scooped an award as the Organisation of the Year with an income under £25,000 at the Pomegranate Theatre, Chesterfield. In addition Jean Freeman had her sterling work as a leading officer in the branch for the last 16 years recognised when she was presented with a certificate for being short listed for the Volunteer Long Service Award.

Cruse supports those who have been bereaved and last year saw nearly 300 new clients, helping them through their grief enabling them to return to an active life and employment much quicker. A client makes a self-referral to our free service to see one of our trained volunteers. Often GPs and CPNs will recommend to a patient who is struggling with their loss to contact us as it is proven that with support they may need less medication for depression and sleeplessness and have better general health. Cruse is a totally volunteer organisation based in Chesterfield where we take referrals over the phone. Client details are confidential but quotes from evaluations include “the work you do provides such positive attitudes and environment to help people, like myself, in distress” and “an excellent service run by such kind caring listeners that helped me so much when I thought no one could”.

All volunteers are highly trained on an accredited training scheme and receive supervision to support them with their case load. Cruse provides in-service training to further educate our volunteers and enable them to handle the stress while they actively participate in improving the health of the local population. Volunteers gain self-confidence and self-worth plus transferrable life skills.

Cruse has increased the number of clients seen each year in Rose Hill Chesterfield, Bolsover, Clay Cross, Matlock or Buxton and have specialist children’s volunteers who see young clients in our specially equipped children’s room courtesy of a lottery grant they received a couple of years ago.

At the presentation of the Award, they were commended for the tremendous amount of work the volunteers do on the small budget from the CCGs and donations. “Our volunteers give their time freely, but it is wonderful to be publically recognised in this way. The need for our service has steadily increased and this award is testament to the very hard and dedicated work our volunteers do with their clients” said the chairperson Margaret Hilburn.

To contact Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Cruse Bereavement Care call 01246 550080 and leave details on the answer phone or email chesterfieldcruse@googlemail.com. National website: Cruse.org.uk
Challenge Cancer Through Adventure (CCAT)

CCATA is a small charity serving the Peak District and surrounding areas which was established in 2005 by seven Peak District based adventure activity enthusiasts, all of whom had previously been diagnosed with cancer or other life threatening illness.

Whether a first time experience, something you’ve always dreamed of doing or another great adventure CCAT supports people who have cancer or other life threatening illness to undertake an adventurous activity. It could be climbing a mountain or a rock face, taking a balloon ride or a parachute jump, a canoe trip or white-water rafting, an abseil or a bungee jump: whatever will challenge and inspire.

To find out more call: 01433 631636 or email: info@challengecancer.org.uk
Website: www.challengecancer.org.uk

Reminiscences DVD for Older People

Derbyshire County Councillor Mike Longden presented a cheque for £500 to Shirley Davison, Chairman of the Darley Dale based First Taste Charity. The grant from the Community Leaders Fund is to help support the production costs of First Taste’s second reminiscence DVD “Food, Glorious Food”.

The film, which hopefully will be released early in 2014, is intended to support care staff’s reminiscence work with older people with dementia in care and nursing homes or attending day care centres.

Shirley expressed First Taste’s appreciation of Cllr Longden’s & Derbyshire County Council’s support for her organisation’s work in helping enhance the quality of life for frail older people in care settings.

First Taste is still looking for help raising the further £4000 needed to meet the new film’s production costs.

Shirley Davison

For further information about First Taste’s work please visit: www.firsttastecharity.co.uk or Tel: 01629 733849.
NDVA Small Grants Scheme

The scheme is designed to offer funding to support health related voluntary groups.

NDVA prioritise use of the funding for voluntary groups that have limited sources of alternative funding. The maximum grant will be up to £1,000.

If your group is contributing to the health and wellbeing of people in an area of Derbyshire and is in need of funding to support its running costs (e.g. room hire, transport, postage, advertising, volunteer expenses), please ring us and we will send you a copy of the details of the Scheme and an application form.

There are four application rounds each year: March, May, August and December.

The next two closing dates are Friday 27th December 2013 and 14th March 2014.

Support to new groups: please note that NDVA accepts applications from new or potential groups (or individuals trying to start a group), to help them get started, at any point in the year.

Contact NDVA for further information on the Small Grants Scheme and new groups support on 01246 555908

User Involvement Fund

The Fund is designed to cover out of pocket expenses of service users, carers and voluntary group representatives who have been invited to participate in a variety of planning groups and consultation exercises relating to health issues in Derbyshire; where funding is not available from the meeting organiser. For example:

- Travel expenses
- Personal assistance costs
- Taxi fares or community transport charges for people for whom public transport is not accessible or cost effective
- Room hire for meetings
- Photocopying costs, telephone costs for user/carer reps to carry out work on behalf of the planning group
- Funding to support user group/forum as a way of increasing user involvement. The group must have direct representation on the relevant planning group if one exists.

Additional Funding may also be available to support service user involvement in planning, e.g. conferences, workshops, consultation exercises, surveys and questionnaires.

Please contact NDVA for further information.
NETWORK is available in large print on request. It is also available on the NDVA website.

Next Health and Social Care Forum
5th February 2014
9.30am - 1pm
VENUE TO BE DECIDED

Why not use ‘Network’ to publicise and promote the work of your group or organisation? There is no charge. The contributors’ deadline for the Spring issue is Friday 21st February 2014
Contact NDVA on 01246 555908 or email sue@ndva.org.uk

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We are now on Twitter! @ndva_info

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