

John Bellany Day Centre

Chairperson's Report

For year to 31st March 2021

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF 2020/21

The current Board of Trustees have remained a consistent and stable group in facing the past year of COVID19.

Sadly we have experienced lengthy periods where the Day Centre has been closed but with the dedication and compassionate approach presented by our staff group we have offered a modified service to all our elderly service users. Staff undertook home visiting, with doorstep contact; delivered treats, cards and other items to provide an ongoing link. As the Covid19 rules were relaxed visits into the home took place, where conversation, crafts, games iPad use and other equipment was utilised, to allow fun and general engagement to take place. These visits also allowed the carer to have periods of respite time to undertake other tasks.

This programme continued throughout the Covid19 year with all the necessary Health and Safety rules and protections put in place.

We are pleased to report that none of our service users became ill due to Covid19 and despite this very difficult year they were looking forward to an eventual fulltime return to the Centre.

In view of our funding status we were not required to furlough staff. We did have one staff member who was required to Shield but this did not disrupt the delivery of our reduced service.

There were only a few occasions when self-isolation was required to take place and all staff followed the required rules. Lateral Flow Testing was in place along with the required use of PPE. Regular Risk Assessments were carried out to insure that all care and protection was in place.

Regular reporting was made to the Health and Social Care Partnership and notifications to the Care Inspectorate were in place as required.

All the necessary monitoring was undertaken both by staff and Trustees as part of their duties and responsibilities.

ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTHS

- Retained all our Trustees during the past financial year.
- Retained positive relationships with stakeholders, professional organisations and local community.
- Continued to progress planned initiatives.
- Maintained a strong staff group who showed considerable commitment to revising their job remit to service the elderly clientele.
- Despite having to meet staff requests to change their working arrangements we have been able to recruit a good quality employee to ensure our complement was not depleted.

ORGANISATIONAL WEAKNESS

- The future funding and service delivery of Day Centre provision is linked to a Procurement plan of Open Tendering being put in place by March 2023.
- The closure of the Day Centre during 2020/21 financial year has impacted seriously on its income.

- Volunteers, due to their senior status, have been required to Shield. They have therefore not been able to participate in any service delivery. Their potential return is uncertain.
- The impact of Covid19 has meant that carers respite time has been dramatically reduced and this has created an additional strain on those committed to their family members.

ORGANISATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Despite Covid19's impact on our service the Board of Trustees have maintained their management role through the use of ZOOM for their business meetings.
- We have been able to reflect on the future service delivery by not only planning to resume our In Reach Day Centre programmes at an appropriate point but have been discussing the use of our skills in delivering an Outreach Service to those in our catchment area who do not wish a place at the Day Centre but are in need of a level of support that they would prefer to have delivered within their own home or in a suitable alternative environment.
- We have considered carefully the use of new technology in delivering our business and began our preparations to become Paper Lite in late 2019. This programme has stuttered somewhat but other aspects have moved ahead, i.e. transferring all paper documents on to our computer systems, with a hard drive back up. This was discussed with our Accountant to have all financial systems computerised and have been given their full support as they are also planning to improve their systems. The outstanding elements of this programme is due for completion in March 2022 and we have projected the ring fencing of the necessary funding in the next financial year.
- We are also discussing the replacement of the Day Centre bus. Initial funding has also been earmarked for use in 2021/22 with the hope that we will undertake a leasing arrangement rather than the purchase of a vehicle. This plan is in abeyance meantime following the news that our Elderly Day Centre services, along with the other nine Day Centre's in East Lothian, will be entering an Open Tendering process, to be finalised by March 2023.
- We have now developed our Website (johnbellanydaycentre.org.uk) which has allowed us to present our profile to a wider audience.
- House building is at a premium in our catchment area and we have examined the concept of co-working with one of the local churches to have an information leaflet inserted within the church's new Welcome Pack for distribution. Planning permission has been granted for 1670 new homes. This will give us an opportunity to seek new referrals and promote our plans for an Outreach Service.

STAFF AND TRUSTEES

- There are 7 staff supporting our clients within the Day Centre and will also be part of an Outreach group when established. We will continue to evaluate the staffing need depending on the ongoing level of referrals.
- There are 4 Trustees plus a Financial Adviser.
- Board Meetings are held quarterly but have been more frequent during the past twelve months. These have taken place via ZOOM.
- We are represented at the regular meetings of the Association of East Lothian Day Centres (for the Elderly). This allows us to express our views on a range of common topics.
- The Manager and Trustees attend other meetings e.g. Health and Social Care Partnership Sub Group, to gather information but also inform others of the services we provide.

CONCLUSION

It is difficult to reflect in a positive manner about the financial year of 2020/21 when so many families have been devastated either through death of a family member, financial hardship, mental health problems and many other aspects that have impacted on people internationally. The report is attempting to show that despite these elements we try to move on by continuing to care for our elderly, look ahead to develop new ideas and new thinking by developing a new strand of service.

There are clearly challenges ahead but we remain optimistic that we can overcome those hurdles which may impact on our opportunity to ensure that the Older People of Cockenzie/Port Seton/Longniddry receive the services and support they richly deserve.

David Ferrier
Chairperson
John Bellany Day Centre