

John Bellany Day Centre

Chairperson's Report

For year to 31st March 2022

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF 2021/22

Our Board of Trustees has increased its numbers by One during the past financial year and has retained the services of its Co-opted Financial Adviser.

Our Day Centre continues to be supported by an HR Adviser appointed by the Association of East Lothian Day Centres to support all 9 Day Centres within East Lothian.

Covid19 continued to hamper our service delivery but we were able to open the Day Centre in August 2021, gradually returning small numbers each month.

Staff maintained an Outreach programme to those who did not feel able to return, undertaking home visits in a way that families felt a continued link with the Day Centre and were offered some stimulating activities during this interim period.

Fortunately Covid19 was not a crucial factor in the ongoing health of staff and service users and a fairly regular support service was maintained. Staff carried out Covid testing on a very regular basis as part of their health checks and were diligent in ensuring good health of their colleagues, service users and their families was protected at all times.

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

- Increased our Trustee numbers during the past financial year.
- Retained positive relationships with stakeholders, professional organisations and local community.
- Continued to progress planned initiatives where it was possible to do so.
- Maintained a strong staff group who showed considerable commitment to delivering a home based support and a reintroduction of the Day Centre service.
- Despite having to meet staff requests to change their working arrangements we have been able to maintain a high level of staff morale throughout the process.

ORGANISATIONAL WEAKNESS

- The future funding and service delivery of Day Centre provision is linked to a Tendering process. The administration of this by the H&SCP/Procurement Service has been somewhat delayed but will be concluded by 31.3.2023.
- The closure of the Day Centre during part of 2021/22 financial year has impacted on its income but will be of a reduced nature by the income from the Centres reopening in August.
- Volunteers, due to their senior status, were asked not to return in August unless they felt confident to do so.
- The impact of Covid19 has meant that carers respite time has been dramatically reduced. Although the home visiting was valued it was vital to them to see the Day Centre reopen, with the continued offer of Outreach.

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 continued to reflect on the future service delivery by the resumption of our In Reach Day Centre programmes and have been discussing the use of our skills in delivering an enhanced Outreach Service to those in our catchment area who do not wish a place at the Day Centre. The content of the programme planning is at an early stage of production and the H&SCP will support this with additional funding.
- The Board of Trustees sought the services of a professional company to produce a Leaflet to be delivered to every home in our catchment area and to the new housing developments which are were being occupied. This leaflet told people about JBDC, the service it offers and invited applications. It also highlighted the plan to create our enhanced Outreach service and encouraged enquiries to explore possible assistance.
- The Paper Lite project programme started in late 2019. This programme stuttered, somewhat due to Covid, but the Contract Manager set out computerising seven years of accounts as required by legislation and setting out numerous other documentation. This work has progressed extremely well and is due to be completed in July 2022.
- The plan to replace the Day Centre bus on a Leasing basis has moved on much more speedily than anticipated. The condition of the present vehicle remains unreliable and this matter has become a high priority.
- The introduction of our Website (johnbellanydaycentre.org.uk) has allowed us to present our profile to a wider audience.

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 now 5 Trustees plus a Financial Adviser.
- Board Meetings are held quarterly but have been more frequent during 2021/22. 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

The reopening of our Day Centre in August 2021 was extremely positive for all concerned in view of the very gloomy Covid times.

Our report shows that we have maintained a positive engagement with our service users, families, staff and communities.

We have set about achieving projects outlined in our past report and set in motion new projects/targets, even though service delivery and finance have been challenging.

Expansion and improvement are our objectives and JBDC is looking forward to implementing these new opportunities as they arise.

David Ferrier
Chairperson
John Bellany Day Centre

