

It doesn't seem 2 minutes since I was writing the newsletter, perhaps that is because there has been so much to do. I have have been busy holding volunteer supervision meetings, arranging training sessions, matching clients and having our Approved Provider Standard reassessment visit (more on that later). Things aren't likely to slow down but that's how I like it. I am very proud to work with such a good team and the work could not be done without the help of volunteers: A big thank you for all your hard work!

Catherine Bamford, Volunteer Manager

Christmas Party

It's nearly that time of year to celebrate Christmas and I would like to invite you to our Christmas Party on **Thursday 20th December from 5pm to 8pm**. We are holding the party at our offices and there will be a buffet, mince pies and a glass of sherry (other tipples may be available). Please let us know if you would like to attend so we can make sure there is enough food and drink to go round.

Approved Provider Standard

In September we had our reassessment visit for the Home Visiting Service Approved Provider Standard (APS). I am very pleased to say that we passed the reassessment with flying colours. This is a reflection not only of the work done by our staff team but also the hard work and dedication of our home visitors.

A big thank you to Bob Noble and Jo Weston who gave up their time to talk to the assessor.



Volunteering Anniversaries

We have a few volunteers who are celebrating their 'volunteer anniversaries'. Bob and Evelyn Shead have now volunteered for YBPSS for an impressive 25 years. Over that time they have helped with fundraising, newsletters and are currently trustees. Teresa Mikola has been a volunteer for 10 years and currently helps with Macular Support Group. Celebrating 5 years are Jo Weston, Helen Burnell, Steve Walton and Claire Webster.

Volunteer Spotlight - Martin

Personal details:

Born prematurely (about 20 years) – so really - not as old as I look!

Previous work experience:

Retired recently after working for 30 years as an NHS dentist. I used to treat all ages, able-bodied and all classifications of patients with “additional needs.” This included a few years in Her Majesties Prison Service. So don't say to me “I'm sure that I know you from somewhere?”

Present duties:

I started as a Home Visitor volunteer with YBPSS in April 2016 and I was quickly assigned my first client.

I didn't know what to expect, because the training that was provided was very general. However, I have enjoyed every week since and I feel that I am now a vital part of my client's routine. If you ask me – I get as much out of this symbiotic relationship as he does. I like to think that on a life enhancing level – we both benefit equally.

My wife (Prue) would say she didn't expect that I would be able to get out of domestic cleaning, ironing and shopping duties as easily as I do now. She was hoping that once I had retired, that I would have more time for those things - not less!!

I really do enjoy helping people and I miss the constant conversations that I had with all my patients. That is why I take particular delight in helping my client to meet and mingle with others and have a good time at Rougier Street playing Bocca. We do lots of other things together elsewhere. I take him to concerts and other events and help him to complete work on his computer. He is very knowledgeable and I help him to complete crosswords. (I read out the clues and he tells me what the answers are!)

There is no way that one client's needs could ever be the same as any other, and the things that I have to do are constantly changing and evolving. Also, we have grown to appreciate and learn about each other. This makes my volunteer work personally rewarding and never boring.

If I wasn't enjoying myself so much, I don't think I would have retained my sense of humour. “Bye-the-way - don't I know YOU from somewhere?”



Dementia Friends Training

The date and time of the Dementia Friends talk has had to be changed to **Friday 23rd November 2-3pm**. I'm really looking forward to this session and it would be great to see lots of you there.

Can you help?

We are looking for extra volunteers to help out with our busy activities programme. If you know anyone who might be interested please ask them to contact Claire.

Welcome

A training course for new and potential volunteers was held in October. I would like to welcome them to YBPSS and hope you all have a rewarding time volunteering for us.



Our New Name

You may have already seen in our main newsletter that our new name will be MySight York. Our new name

is not only much easier to say, it also reflects what we are all about. We are the go-to place in York for anyone with concerns about sight loss. We believe our new name reflects our core values of being welcoming and friendly and able to offer a wide range of services and provide individuals the opportunity to make choices in a safe environment.

We would like to thank everyone for all their help and support and your ideas and comments have been invaluable in helping us find the right name, we couldn't have done it without you.

Over the next few months the team will be working really hard to produce new leaflets and posters, amend the website, contact the Charities Commission and do all the other things that are required when an organisation changes its name.

We will keep you up to date with our progress and watch out for lots of activity in January with press releases, radio interviews and lots of posters and coasters around York!!

You can help us spread the word. If you can think of somewhere local to you where you could display a poster, a local shop or a community notice board please let us know and we can send you some.

Training and Events

Just a reminder that all volunteers are required to attend a minimum number of training sessions per year: home visitors, 2 sessions per year, activity and fundraising volunteers 1 per year. Of course you can attend more if you want. You have all attended one session already with the reissue of the volunteer handbook.

Booking is essential as places are limited. Contact Aneta to book a place.

The remaining courses for 2018/19 are:

**Dementia Friends Information Session
23rd November 2018 , 2pm to 3pm NEW
DATE**

A fun, interactive way to learn a little about dementia & how it can affect people's lives.

**Older people's services
16th January 2019, 7-8pm**

AGE UK will be coming to talk to us about available services.

**Sighted Guided Training
15th February 10.30-11.30**

A chance to practice your sighted guiding skills.

**Mental health awareness
12th March 2019, 3-4.30pm**

York Mind will talk about understanding mental health & how to support people who experience it (a repeat of the talk held in October 2017)

**Volunteer Christmas Party
20th December, 5-8pm**

Come along to our offices for a buffet, mince pies and a glass of sherry. Please let us know by 10th December if you would like to attend.

Contacts

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and Home Visiting Service**

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