

**SUSSEX NETWORK MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**VENUE:- Seaford House, Crouch Lane, Seaford BN25 1PW**

**Chair – Marisa Freeman (MF) -** Team Manager Extra Care, Optivo

**Minutes – Shaun Thurston (ST)** – Retirement Housing Team Leader, Eastbourne and Lewes Councils

**ATTENDEES:- Shaun Thurston (ST)** – Eastbourne and Lewes Councils, **Margaret Padmore (MP)** - Eastbourne and Lewes Councils, **John Falla (JF) –** Optivo, **Zola Thomas (ZT)** – Wealden District Council, **Gill Mar (GM)** – Guinness Care, **Cathy Neal (CN)** – Guinness Care, **Muka Muntunga (MM),** Sanctuary Housing.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:- Audrey Pinnington & Emma Cummings –** Social Impact Team, Optivo talking about the TOY Project (Together Old and Young)

**KEY MESSAGES AND ACTIONS**

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| **Welcome & apologies** | **Claire Elworthy (CE)** – Eastbourne and Lewes Councils  **Robin Deane (RD)** – Optivo |  |
| **Actions from last meeting** | **MF** – discussed the Intergenerational Project which is happening at The Orangey. Guest Speakers to discuss this project further at the next meeting.  **CE –** agreed to share Lewes and Eastbourne’s new Code of Conduct. This has been now sent out to all members.  **RD** – Emphasised the importance of sharing good practise at these meetings. |  |
| **TOY Project (Optivo)**  **(AP & EC)** | **TOY –** ‘Together Old & Young’  Health and Wellbeing Programme – 5 ways to wellbeing.  6 older residents are matched with 6 children from a local primary school and enjoy fun educational activities together.  12 week programme held at the Retirement Scheme, The Orangey, Bexhill-on-Sea on a Tuesday afternoon. Sessions last for 90 minutes.  Has been very successful and been so warming to see the smiles on the older residents faces when the children attend a session – they look forward to each session!  There was a celebration event at the end of the programme where the parents of the children involved could see the work which had been happening.  Question was asked form the group on issues to consider when the programme is put in place.  **AP** – advised there was some vetting involved. Individual Needs Assistants were on stand by who could help the older residents. Permission forms needed to be completed by parents. There was also consideration in relation to illnesses such as chicken pox/shingles.  Question was asked from the group in relation to length of time it took to set up.  **AP** – advised that it took a couple of months to set up. It was a case of contacting local schools to see who would be interested in the programme. Other issues to consider were DBS checks if required. There was also careful liaising with Optivo’s Social impact Team, and ensuing that the programme is put together carefully.  **AP –** spoke about other programmes In place that her team are working on, which includes ‘New Kids on Block’ for young parents and ‘Fit and Fab Mummies’ which are pre and post natal fitness classes. |  |
| **Round the room** | **ST** – advised of the Intergenerational Project which is taking place at Lewes and Eastbourne. The project will be at the Retirement Scheme, Upwyke House in Eastbourne. They are teaming up with the YMCA to house two young people in studio flats at the scheme, on Introductory Tenancies. The idea is that these young people can assist with helping the older residents with setting up social activities as well as gaining and understanding of the support requirements needed in the retirement housing service.  There are naturally, some concerns with the project, particularly over the management of the tenancies which will ultimately fall with the Retirement Housing Service. Problems such as rent payments and issues relating to ASB are a concern. Careful vetting will need to take place from the YMCA.  Despite concerns, this is an encouraging project and may help to solve problems such as hard to let flats as well create positive relationships between older and younger people. ST will update on progress of this project at the next meeting.  **CN** – careful consideration is being undertaken on removing the warden call systems across all their schemes. Apollo systems are now a possible alternative, and CN asked the group who is using this system as would like to know more about this.  Other updates include re-decoration works which are being carried out across several schemes.  **MM ­**– advised that there are a lot of issues relating to service charges across their schemes. On a positive side, they have introduced indoor curling as a social activity which has been very popular and easy to carry out!  **JF** – advised that is has been a busy time, still on the back of the merge of Amicus Horizon and Veridian. However, the schemes are very well managed and they have very capable and experienced scheme managers.  **ZT** – spoke about the new retirement housing development at Grants Hill Court, Uckfield, TN22 2BW which comprises of 67 flats complete with digital lifeline systems. This was a redevelopment of a previous site.  **MF** –reminded the group of the referral process for the 7 Extra Care schemes across Sussex. Referrals go through a panel managed by ESCC. There is an Extra Care Co-ordinator, Emma Winters who can be contacted at [emma.winter@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:emma.winter@eastsussex.gov.uk)  Clients of Extra Care must have a minimum of 7 hours personal care a week. |  |
| **ERoSH report** | **MF** – EroSH has taken ownership of The Centre for Housing and Support (CHS) and Service Excellence Standards (SES) which has been re-branded as Erosh Code of Practice.  The Code of Practise will influence positive practice within the sheltered and supported housing sector which includes complying with legislation, assisting with creating robust and up to date policies and procedures, ensuring staff are properly trained, good quality accommodation and making sure there are positive outcomes for our customers.  For further details on ERoSH visit the [**erosh website**](https://erosh.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5cef6225a8401a8e4f9be983d&id=3a8ac45361&e=0042997315) |  |
| **Any other business** | A question on how to obtain an entertainment licence for communal lounges was raised.  Optivo use, Film Bank Media to supply an entertainment licence for films and music.  This is an annual licence and is an additional requirement to the communal lounge TV licence.  It costs approximately £100 per site per annum.  Contact details are [PVSL@filmbankmedia.com](mailto:PVSL@filmbankmedia.com) and a named contact is Robert Darling.  Tel. 020 79845921.  Website address is [www.filmbankmedia.com](http://www.filmbankmedia.com/) |  |
| **Next meeting** | Wednesday 8th January at 2pm at Grants Hill Court, Uckfield, TN22 2BW  Look forward to seeing you there! |  |