

Trustees Annual Report 2013/14

Community Care North Bucks (CCNB) is a registered charity operating in North Bucks.

The Charity has three main activities: -

- A Hospital Car Service
- A support group for adult carers (aged 18 plus)
- A support group and club for young carers (for carers under 18).

A Board of Trustees, appointed by the membership of CCNB, oversees the governance and management of the Charity. They govern the Charity within the object set out in the Constitution, which states: -

“To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the inhabitants of North Bucks, and to advance education, protect and preserve health and relieve poverty, sickness and distress.”

The Trustees confirm they have referred to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission when reviewing and monitoring the activities of CCNB. All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no private benefit from the work of the Charity. Services provide benefits which are either free or subsidised to ensure anyone can access them.

The Trustees review all the policies and procedures of the Charity annually or earlier if needed. These include a risk assessment so that risks to the Charity are identified and managed.

The Charity is run by volunteers: there are no paid staff. At present there are 68 volunteers involved.

CCNB is funded through grants, local fundraising and subsidised charges from patients using the Hospital Car Service.

The 2013/14 year has been especially busy and demanding and it is important to place on record the thanks, on behalf of the Trustees, to the many volunteers who have worked so tirelessly to help others. Without the willingness and commitment of our volunteers we could not run the services we provide to so many in our community.

At the beginning of the financial year concerns remained about the impact of the uncertain economic climate on grant applications and local fundraising but remarkably those concerns have again this year proved groundless

It is good therefore to be able to report that our finances remain in a good position. Income for the year was £46,832 with expenditure at £41,644 leaving a surplus of just over £5,000. With our reserves we are carrying forward £53,903 which equates to 14 months expenditure. But we shall have to continue to work hard to find funding sources, as the economic climate looks to remain difficult in the years ahead. The budget for 2014/15 shows a planned deficit of £4,695.

The Trustees have an agreed reserves policy which is reviewed each year. This policy requires the reserves to remain between 6 and 12 months current expenditure. The reserves as at March 31st 2014 stood at £43,750.

We are grateful to those who have supported us financially during the past year, in particular the significant support received from Bucks County Council, the Aylesbury Vale Community Chest, the Roger and Jean Jeffcote Trust and the R Radcliffe Trust. Full details of all those who have supported us during the year will appear on our web site later in the year.

This was a significant year for the Hospital Car Service as the number of trips passed the 1000 mark for the year for the first time. Five new drivers were recruited during the year and there are currently 37 drives on the team. We are actively recruiting as there are still occasions when we cannot meet demand. The main issue for the Service is that of car parking at the various hospitals particularly where there is new building being carried out on the hospital site.

The Adult Carers group has had another successful year with a busy and varied programme of events. There are now 43 carers being supported by our team of 10 volunteers. A "Moving On" group has been successfully developed for those who are no longer active carers but still need encouragement, fellowship and support

Young Carers currently has 33 members between 7 and 18 years: there are 13 seniors (13 years plus) and 20 juniors (7 – 12 years). There are a further 4 awaiting assessment. A programme of key speakers have helped the seniors with their education and career choices which is so important to young carers who statistically do not achieve as much as their counterparts who do not have caring responsibilities. Volunteers are also encouraged to seek further training as part of their development. Our ongoing programme of mentoring and education aimed at improving the skills, experience and confidence of young carers has also developed further this year with much success.

These reports underline how much the work of the charity has grown and the response we receive from the local community shows just how much the services we provide are needed and valued. As we continue to grow and develop we will need to ensure the governance and financial requirements are also kept under review and developed appropriately.

Keith Croxton
Chair of Trustees