

MySight York - Volunteering Extra

(Autumn 2021)

In some ways it doesn't seem 2 minutes since I was writing the last newsletter and in other ways so much has happened it seems like it must have been ages since the last newsletter hit your door step or in-box. Like the majority of organisations, lockdown has meant changes in staffing, As volunteers you will more than likely have met Caroline and Mike who have both left to start new jobs. We now have Marina working on reception and I am sure many of you will either speak to her or see her in person once things reopen fully. We have also welcomed Vicky our new Community Involvement Officer who will be taking on similar tasks to Caroline.

Catherine Bamford, Volunteer Manager

Volunteer Socials

We have continued to hold our Volunteer Socials via Zoom and telephone which I know isn't the same but at the moment it has been the only way. July's Zoom social generated a great discussion about the exciting things we had all been up to. This varied from fruit picking, tandem biking and even abseiling which we were all very impressed with. Well done Helen on your abseiling!

Resuming Services

Lockdown and a change in staffing has meant that we have adapted the services we offer. We are really keen to resume face-to-face activities and visits and continue to work hard to find a way to do this

safely. Most of our previous home visitors are back to seeing their clients. The next step is to look at the increase in demand into the home visiting service which we received during lockdown.

With our befriending services getting back to normal and Caroline and Aneta leaving we have reviewed who manages each service. The Home Visiting service will continue to be managed by Catherine Bamford. If you have any queries about your volunteering or home visiting client / relationship then please get in touch with Catherine. If you are a home visitor then Catherine will also be your supervisor.

The Keeping In Touch (KIT) service will be managed by Vicky Smith and Vicky will deal with any queries

regarding your KIT clients / relationships. If you are a KIT volunteer then Vicky will be your supervisor unless you are also a home visitor in which case Catherine will be your supervisor.

Vicky is exploring ways to get group activities back and if she hasn't done so already will be in touch soon. If you previously helped with activities then Vicky will be your supervisor.

Seeing Each Other Again

As mentioned previously some of our home visitors have resumed visits. Here is what Lucy had to say about visiting her client Donna again.

'I have been visiting Donna for 6 years and we both really missed seeing each other over lockdown. We managed a couple of visits in the garden last summer and have spoken on the phone every week, but at long last in September this year we were able to resume our usual outings.

Donna enjoys lots of different activities and we have enjoyed planning what we would do when we could meet again. I should not have been surprised that Donna chose shopping! Donna can shop from a catalogue at home but there's nothing like seeing and choosing the things you would like and having a chat while you are doing it, and she

came home with a good haul.

Last week we did Donna's second favourite thing, ten pin bowling. We both thought we might have forgotten how to do it, but we very quickly got back into the swing of it and surprised ourselves with our scores. It was lovely to see Donna smiling and so pleased with herself, and I think it gives her a lot of confidence and pride that she has this skill.

We have got lots of plans for our Tuesdays together over the coming weeks and I am pleased that Donna can have the social contact and fun activities that she has missed recently. I have missed Donna too, as she has become a good friend, and we are both so happy to be back together.'



Lucy and Donna having a trip out before lockdown

Reporting

Reporting for Keeping In Touch and Home Visiting will continue to be quarterly (next one due 1st week in October). Please send your reports to Christian Waite. As always if you have any concerns about your clients please contact Catherine or Vicky as soon as possible.

Can you help?

If you have had home visitor or community activities training and would be interested in helping a client do the following: line dancing, archery, meditation, swimming, walking or green bowling then please contact Vicky for more information.

Fundraising Update

We are in the process of recruiting a Fundraiser. In the meantime if you have any queries regarding your fundraising role please contact Scott Jobson.

Dates for your diary

Volunteer Social - Zoom

Wednesday 20th October
2-3pm

Volunteer Social - telephone

Thursday 21st October
10.30-11.30am

General Volunteer Enquiries, Home Visiting Service

Catherine Bamford, Volunteer Manager

01904 731122

volunteermanager@mysightyork.org
(Tuesday to Friday)

Fundraising

Scott Jobson, Chief Executive
01904 731121

Scott.jobson@mysightyork.org
(Mon to Fri)

Keeping In Touch / Activities

Vicky Smith, Community Involvement Officer

01904 731124

vicky.smith@mysightyork.org
(Mon to Fri)

Community Activities

Christian Waite, Activities and Volunteer Coordinator

01904 731127

Christian.waite@mysightyork.org
(Mon to Thurs)

Home Connections

Deb Wheller, Early Intervention and Sight Loss Advisor

01904 731125

Deb.wheller@mysightyork.org
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MySight York

live well with sight loss