

Seaford Community Network Report

24th October 2017 St. James' Trust, Seaford

Event summary

In experimenting with an evening meeting, it was interesting to note a very positive attendance figure (29 participants). The Forum took the theme of intergenerational work and allowed participants the opportunity to network based on finding out more about services aimed at different age ranges in Seaford. Two presentations were given by groups (one based in Seaford, the other in Forest Row – because of linking into Community Network activity in Wealden) engaged in intergenerational work, which were well received and resulted in a lot of questions from the floor and participants were then asked to identify areas of work where they felt joint agency initiatives could improve connections across all age ranges in Seaford.

It appears that participants would like to see a larger-scale community event take place in Seaford that might be open to the public and showcase and inspire more intergenerational work.

Participants also offered a lot of feedback about widening the reach of the Network.

22 participants completed evaluation forms, 55% rated as event 'excellent/extremely useful', 41% 'good/very useful' (4% not indicated).

Main Outcomes

There appeared to be a groundswell of enthusiasm and desire to initiate more intergenerational work in Seaford. The two presentations offered potential models for potential future development. There was impetus evident to hold a larger scale community event involving individuals (public) and groups. To take this area of work forward, Min Stone the ESCC Locality Link Worker will be inviting interested organisations and individuals to join a working group with an initial planning meeting aimed to take place early in 2018.

We also discussed the future development of the Community Network in Seaford and reflected that attendance levels (23 participants in July and 29 participants at this meeting) were very good and there appears to be genuine enthusiasm for having this Network in the town. Participants would like there to be some form of members directory, citing organisation contact details, services opening hours (where applicable) and a brief synopsis of what each represented organisation, or group does. It was also agreed to look at ways of widening Network participation and numerous suggestions were put forward as to agencies to which invitations to attend could be extended, particularly towards people from agencies representing young people and working across different sectors. Both initiatives will be followed up by staff from 3VA and the ESCC Locality Link Worker.