

Monitoring Form – Voluntary Organisation Support Grant

As part of your application to the Council's Voluntary Organisation Support grant, you agreed that in the first twelve months of funding, your organisation would meet the achievements detailed below.

Part of the application process was an agreement to provide evidence in relation to what you are doing to achieve these targets. We therefore require you to complete this simple monitoring form on a quarterly basis. The sheets are to be returned to us no later than ten days after the end of the following periods:

Q1 April – June 2017

Q2 July – September 2017

Q3 October – December 2017

Q4 January – March 2018

Please demonstrate how you are achieving:-

Support 4 Sight will operate its Resource Centre, Monday to Friday each week, offering high quality support and advice to people with sight loss in Uttlesford.

Support 4 Sight's resource centre has been operating Monday to Friday each week throughout April, May and June. During this period we have had 135 callers to our resource centre, of which 75 were blind and partially sighted and 44 were carers.

During this period:

19 people reported having better health

27 people reported being more socially included

33 people demonstrated an improvement in their emotional wellbeing

51 people reported having increased independence

10 people reported an improvement to their financial wellbeing

91 people gained information, advice and guidance

Please demonstrate how you are achieving:-

Support 4 Sight will offer volunteering roles and training to our team of 92 Volunteers.

Support 4 Sight is always looking for additional volunteers and currently there are 10 new recruits in the process of recruitment, training and role experience. We have a Volunteer Co-ordinator in place who is liaising with Volunteer Uttlesford and other avenues to recruit new volunteers.

It's important we train our volunteers so that they can help people with sight loss with low vision aids. One of our low vision aid suppliers will be sending an expert over to us to run two magnifier training sessions shortly. Our volunteers will be invited to attend the training

days to gain skills and knowledge that will assist in their volunteering roles. Previous training sessions we have operated received highly positive feedback.

Please demonstrate how you are achieving:-

Support 4 Sight will work with local organisations, community groups, facilities and businesses to launch a befriending service to isolated elderly people with sensory loss (sight, hearing and deafness), which we anticipate will support approximately 200 people in Uttlesford

Support 4 Sight has launched its befriending service, which has continually grown since its first day and will likely keep expanding. To date, 65 visually impaired people in Uttlesford are being supported through the befriending service.

We have two visually impaired volunteers acting as peer-mentors carrying out approx. 7 telephone calls per week to isolated people on the befriending service. The understanding and experience that the peer-mentors bring to the service is invaluable. Beneficiaries can often be quite closed off with the thought that the person they are speaking to will never understand what they are going through. Upon finding out the volunteer calling them also has sight loss, they become less guarded and open up much more than they would have speaking to a sighted volunteer.

Beneficiaries are also encouraged to take part in social activities. By coming along to a coffee morning or social trip, they have the chance to socialise with others with sight loss and build up a network of peer support and make additional friends.

Through this project we have been working with other organisations including Royal Association for Deaf people, Hearing Help Essex, Community Agents and Frontline to handle referrals into telephone befriending as well as supporting with other services.

Case Study of a Befriendee:

Mr D is a fifty seven year old male and is registered Severely Sight impaired, with additional mobility problems and requires dialysis three times a week. At the beginning of May 2017, Mr D was referred internally within Support 4 Sight for our befriending telephone service, as he had very little contact with anyone outside of his limited family circle. He was matched with a volunteer who had a similar visual disability, same gender and similar age bracket for regular telephone calls.

During these calls, an exchange of information was given in respect of the various social events and local coffee mornings. It was arranged that Mr D would attend a local coffee event and that the volunteer befriender would meet him there. Mr D enjoyed being part of the event, particularly having the opportunity to meet with other sight impaired peers. He also received information in respect of magnifiers and lighting and he is keen to have an assessment and demonstration to help increase his independence from volunteers during a planned home visit..

It was also established that Mr D used to be a keen angler, but is no longer able to fish due to his decreasing sight loss. The volunteer befriender has also recently encountered a number of other Severely Sight impaired beneficiaries who also used to fish but who feel that

they are no longer able to participate in an angling activity due to their current sight loss. Therefore, a referral has been made to our community services co-ordinator who is negotiating with a local angling club asking for some of their members to help support and mentor several of Support 4 Sights beneficiaries who would like to participate in an angling activity again.

Prior to agreeing to be part of the telephone befriending service, Support 4 Sight had supported Mr D with applying for the appropriate benefits and helping to complete paperwork on his behalf. Support 4 Sight had also assisted in referring to Essex Cares Limited for a symbol Cane and had provided Mr D with a donated talking microwave to enable him to cook and re-heat food.

The Befriender felt that Support 4 Sight has given Mr D the help and support that he needed to begin his journey to improve his lifestyle and retain some independence, as well as his supporting his emotional and financial wellbeing.

In addition, can you please supply us, by the end of May, with quarterly and yearly targets so your achievements can be monitored and reported to Councillors throughout the year. As your achievements will be monitored in a formal manner, can you please ensure you meet the reporting deadlines stated above. Failure to do this may jeopardise further funding opportunities for your organisation.

Completed by:

Name Michael Lovell _____

Date 26/07/17 _____

Position in organisation Funding and Technology Coordinator

Signed  _____