

## Kent Friendz - Case Study 1

has profound multiple learning disabilities, he has to wear a helmet at all times to protect himself from injury. He is wheelchair bound, non-verbal and can at times display challenging behaviour. He is a regular attendee at our half term, main school holiday and after school clubs, we also provide home support (not included in grant application) to give his main carer respite.

When he first joined our activities he was very withdrawn, lacked any confidence and was uncommunicative.

After spending considerable time with..... building up a rapport we introduced him to various sensory activities and to animals at various wildlife centres. The reaction we received from..... was immense. As you are aware children with learning disabilities respond well to sensory activities and animals. This gave us an idea and with the help of our local disabled horse-riding centre..... is now able to sit on a horse (supported at all times by several support workers). He has an expression of sheer joy whenever he attends and is constantly asking his carer when can he go to Kent Friendz and go horse-riding. His confidence and independence has grown so much that when on one occasion the horse raised its leg over a small pebble he smiled even more.

His mother said 'Kent Friendz has made ..... a much more confident, independent and communicative child. He always comes home with a big smile when he comes back from Kent Friendz'.

## Kent Friendz - Case Study 2

.....has profound multiple learning disabilities, .....and behavioural disabilities, in addition he suffers from epileptic seizure (symptomatic focal epilepsy) and his left side hemiplegia, which means that he loses his sense of balance and is wheelchair bound. He also has challenging behaviour. Despite his disabilities he is a regular attendee at the Kent Friendz activities. Because of his disabilities he required 2:1 care at all times, which is costly in terms of staff cost but we are able to provide this level of care because of the funding we receive from grant providers. When he first came to our activities he was very withdrawn, uncommunicative and lacked any form of confidence. We spent a great deal of time with him, building up a rapport and gave him confidence in our staff, we always used the same staff with him. Although his disabilities remain he has made significant progress in terms of communication and confidence.

This had been achieved by introducing him to various sensory activities, he loves animals (as you know children with learning disabilities respond well to sensory stimulus), we have taken him to local parks and wildlife centres where he can meet the animals.

His mother said 'Thank you Kent Friendz for all you do for ....., you have an excellent team who work so hard providing all the activities and for what you achieved for .....'.

# Sevenoaks Community First Responders



In Partnership with

South East Coast Ambulance Service **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

20<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Dear Simon

Thank you very much indeed for the Grant of £1660.00 that you awarded to the Sevenoaks Community Responders, it has been invaluable, and I am now in a position to provide you with a case study of how this money has helped us.

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R saw an article in Kemsing Parish Magazine 'The Well' suggesting that Sevenoaks Community First Responders were looking for new volunteers. She emailed Tim Hall, CFR Team Leader on 15 September 2015 and he directed R to the web site and also invited her to come along to a group meeting. R's first group meeting was on 29 October 2015. Tim talked her through what was involved in the role and invited her to stay and listen at the meeting.

R began to help at Fundraising Events, her first being 7 November 2015 helping the team run the stall at Sevenoaks Fireworks, a fundraiser at Sevenoaks leisure Centre, as well as attending the team meeting on 26 November. This showed the Sevenoaks CFR team that R was serious about joining the Responders so later that day R was sent an application form to join Sevenoaks CFR.

R returned the form to Tim on 28 January 2016, she then attended an interview with South East Coast Ambulance Service on 31 March 2016, and by April 2016 had received some additional forms from South East Coast Ambulance Service to complete including Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate.

R's two Referees had been approached and replied by early May 2016, and she had been contacted by Team Prevent to start her course of Hepatitis injections, her first being on 7 June 2016.


R carried on attending team meetings every month and helping out at fundraising and training session including but not limited to Kemsing Guides on 15 April 2016 and Otford Village Fete on 30 May 16. R then attended the day course at Paddock Wood on 25 June 2016 which included training in how to use a Defibrillator and how to administer Oxygen which she passed.

It was now that, thanks to the grant given by Sevenoaks Council, we were able to supply R with her Responder Kit and get her actively responding out on the road.

# Sevenoaks Community First Responders



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South East Coast Ambulance Service   
NHS Foundation Trust

**R clocked on for the first time as a Responder on Sunday 17 July. Four hours in she was called by the Control Desk to assist another Sevenoaks First Responder help an elderly gentleman who had cut his leg badly and lost a couple of cups of blood. The CFRs were first on scene and R began to control the bleeding and the other CFR gave the gentleman oxygen. The Ambulance Crew arrived and took the gentleman to hospital.**

**R plans to continue attending training courses so that she can increase her scope of practice and respond to a wider scope of calls. \*\*\***

I can confirm that all responders go through a key skills training session with regard to the Safeguarding Children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Without the Grant you very kindly gave to us we wouldn't have been able to get R out on the road with a responder kit. It is a truly invaluable amount of money that you have given to us and we are very grateful indeed.

Best wishes

Katie Stringer  
Sevenoaks Community First Responder and Trustee

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## **Case Study**

The client contacted us and advised that her next door neighbour's dog continually barks every time she opens her back door and goes into her garden. She then has verbal abuse from her neighbour saying that she has made the dog bark. On contacting her neighbour she advised us that she feels her neighbour does too much noisy work in their garden. Both were agreeable for an assessment visit.

Volunteer mediators visited both parties in their own homes and fully discussed their issues, all were agreeable to a joint meeting. The meeting took place and a full written agreement was reached.

One party had a physical disability and ill health the other party had mental health problems.



## **bigger voices - better lives**

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Mr X is a 53 year old man who is married with children and grandchildren. He was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome approximately 7 years ago and is also registered as partially deaf. He has been employed in the past as a professional photographer. He has also worked in a camera shop and in Woolworths. He is a lay preacher for the Baptist Church. His health has not allowed him to work at present.

Mr X agreed to work on this project because as he says, "I enjoy being able to give something back to others in the community, be they neuro typical or with Asperger's." He also acknowledges that although this has been an enjoyable experience it has also brought its challenges but he has been happy and willing to meet these.

One challenge has been presenting information concerning behaviours or symptoms of Asperger's Syndrome that does not affect him. He had to take another persons perspective in order to, "find a way to present this information so that it was understandable and so others would understand it."

Another challenge was having the flexibility to manage the Q&A session. This meant that not only did he have to remain on topic but be respectful of different view points and behaviours that he didn't always see as having a logical explanation.

Mr X, who is co delivering the training along with a member of the Advocacy for All team, has said that it has been a privilege to be involved. At the time of putting the training together Mr X was seeing a psychologist at the Maudsley Hospital. The psychologist was very interested in the training saying that it had made a contribution to Mr Xs wellbeing and health. Mr X said that, "this experience has definitely encouraged my sense of self-worth." He went on to explain that a poor sense of self-worth and depression were, for him, a part of Asperger's because of the "confusion and chaos of living in a busy world."

Mr X is going on to get involved in an art exhibition as a result of the training. This work is proving to be both empowering for our members and a real source of support and guidance to the general public. The aim of the training is not only to create a greater awareness of Asperger's in Sevenoaks but also to create greater confidence in our members.



# Kenward Trust

*transforming lives, creating new futures*

## **Sevenoaks District Council Community Grants Scheme 2016-2017 6 Month Update**

We are very grateful to Sevenoaks District Council for their grant of £1,000 for our Kenward Intervention Programme.

We have recently worked with Knole Academy. Our Kenward in the Community team visited the school and delivered drug and alcohol education and awareness to 27 boys from Year 10 followed by a group session with a smaller group of 8 boys who had been caught using or were suspected of using cannabis. This was causing some negative behaviour both inside and outside of school. The visit to the school was followed up by a visit to Kenward Trust by the same group of 8 boys and two of their teachers.

During their visit to Kenward Trust they met with current and previous residents and volunteers from HMP East Sutton Park who work on the Kenward Trust site during the week. Together they helped the group to see issues and impact of addiction. Many of those who told their life stories to the boy from the school could trace their addiction/criminal life back to when they were a similar age. This had quite an impact on the boys from the school as it made them realise what they were doing now could impact the rest of their life. One boy said

*"I didn't realise something I thought was harmless could have such major consequences and could do so much damage. Not just to me but to my family and friends"*

The feedback from the school was very good and want to work with Kenward Trust again as and when other groups are identified.

The Kenward in the Community Team undertake outreach work across the Sevenoaks District and had already met most of the 8 boys who came to Kenward during their outreach sessions at Greatness Park. The work in the school and the follow up at Kenward Trust enabled members of the Kenward in the Community team to continue conversation and explore other areas with the boys when they see them out in the community.

Kenward Trust was also approached by a parent from Greatness whose son was involved with drugs and anti social behaviour. We were able to do some one to one work with him which has helped him to make some changes in his life. The parent was so grateful to Kenward Trust she is now volunteering in our social enterprise programme. She said *"Kenward Trust have helped me to get my son. The son I remembered"*

Your grant is helping us to provide targeted intervention and education to young people in Sevenoaks. Our work helps young people to view and hear the experiences of those living with or recovering from addiction.

John Shanley – Project Manager  
Kenward in the Community

**CASE STUDY - Kathy**

Kathy was initially referred to DAVSS by the Police as a High Risk case following a serious physical and sexual assault when she reported that her partner had thrown her against a wall and tried to strangle her. He then tried to throw her out of the window but was unsuccessful because there was a safety catch on the window. She managed to escape and fled to a friend in Maidstone. However, she would not support any Police action because she feared that this would make him even more abusive. Subsequently she discovered that she was pregnant and the midwife referred her to Social Services who advised her to contact DAVSS as she had returned to her Housing Association flat in the West Kent area.

Following her call to the DAVSS Helpline, her allocated DAVSS Advisor contacted her immediately to agree a safety plan and an early meeting. She said that her ex partner was not living in the flat but visited regularly and would try to force the door if she did not let him in as he had broken in on one occasion already. She feared he would do this again before the Police had time to arrive. Immediate contact was made with the Housing Association who recognised the urgency of the situation and immediately arranged for a safety chain to be put on her door and a fireproof letter box to be installed as arson had been threatened.

Kathy was open about her distrust of all officials due to some negative previous experiences when she was in a former abusive relationship. However, she agreed to meet the DAVSS Advisor when it was explained that it would be a trained volunteer and therefore not 'an official'. Even so, she said that she did not believe anyone could help her.

Kathy arrived at the meeting with her bags packed saying she could not return to her flat as it was too dangerous. This was a challenging situation and it was agreed that she would go to her Mother's although this could not be for more than a few days as the flat was already overcrowded. Kathy agreed to go to a Refuge place whilst she tried to get more permanent accommodation before the baby was born.

Kathy revealed that she had been a self harmer from time to time because of the abuse she had experienced; she said that she had also taken drugs and had attempted suicide very recently. However she was now determined to stop all drug taking for the sake of her unborn child and with support, enrolled herself on a Drug Relapse Prevention Programme.

The DAVSS Advisor immediately contacted 2 Refuges both of whom had spaces but Kathy's application was turned down for different reasons by both, one because it was too near to the area when the alleged perpetrator was living, and the other for reasons of social mix within the Refuge as Kathy had disclosed that she had a mental health diagnosis.

The Social Worker was contacted the same day and was very helpful in re-arranging meeting dates to suit Kathy, including an early session with the Mental Health Team. She also following up with the Refuges, and providing support to link up with other agencies in the area Kathy was fleeing to.

The DAVSS Advisor contacted the Housing Association about the planned move and they were very sympathetic to Kathy's dilemma, agreeing to waive the one months notice period at such time as Kathy obtained a new place to live and to assist when she moved out.

Kathy left the meeting to travel to stay with her Mother and was supported to apply for housing to her new Local Authority immediately. However, as they had no temporary accommodation available and a very long waiting list even for urgent applications, they helped her to find private rental very quickly and provided a rent deposit and a month's rent in advance to get her settled.

Kathy's case was considered by the West Kent MARAC, a MARAC to MARAC referral was made to the new area. She was also referred to the local Domestic Abuse Service in her new area for further support as the perpetrator was still trying to contact her.

The possibility of obtaining a Non Molestation Order was discussed with her in some detail, and although she felt that she could cope with getting an emergency injunction, she felt completely unable to face him in court at the Hearing even with the support of a Solicitor and her DAVSS Advisor. She felt that moving to a new area and keeping her address confidential would provide her with the safety she needed.

When she returned with her Mother to her flat to collect her belongings a couple of weeks later, a Housing Officer arranged to be present so that she felt confident and safe to do this.

Kathy is now safe in her new accommodation and is in touch with all the agencies in her new area who can provide her with the support she needs.

### **Purpose**

- To ensure the safety of the client and her unborn child
- To support the client to report the domestic abuse in all its forms to the Police
- To support the client to the Civil Court for an emergency Injunction/Occupation Order
- To support the client in accessing a Lawyer for this purpose as she was eligible for legal aid
- To work with Social Services to safeguard the unborn child
- To work with the Housing Association and Local Authority to support her to find new accommodation.

### **Action taken**

- CAADA/DASH checklist assessed as High risk
- A MARAC referral was made and DAVSS represented the case
- A Personal Safety Plan was completed and updated as necessary
- A referral was made to Social Services
- DAVSS contacted Refuges to try to get a place for her
- DAVSS worked pro-actively with the Housing Association and then the Local Authority in her new area to support the client to get the housing she needed
- A close working relationship was established with the Social Worker who was tireless in her endeavours to support Kathy and her unborn child although it was felt necessary to establish a Child Protection Plan and undertake Pre Proceedings because of the history of mental health, drugs, and domestic violence which could recur if Kathy was discovered by her ex partner.



## **Successful Outcomes**

- Kathy's mother agreed to her coming to live with her temporarily although this meant temporary overcrowding of her Mother's flat, and then extended her welcome until a private rental could be obtained.
- There was excellent co-operation with Social Services and the Housing Association – a real demonstration of what can be achieved in a short space of time where good partnership relationships are established.
- Kathy obtained a new safe home and was supported to do this by the Local Authority in the area to which she had fled
- Kathy joined a Drug Relapse Prevention Programme and is now free from drugs
- The Social Worker ensured that she was registered with a new GP, and a Midwife and put her in touch with the local Mental Health Service
- A MARAC to MARC referral was made and DAVSS referred her on to the local Domestic Abuse service in her new area
- Kathy now feels safe and confident in her new home

## **Unexpected difficulties and action taken**

- The Police wanted to prosecute the alleged Perpetrator but Kathy was too fearful to support any action.
- A protective Injunction was discussed, but once again Kathy was too fearful to agree to this option which was also recommended by the Police. Her wishes were respected and every effort made for her to move away to an undisclosed address to ensure her safety as far as possible.
- Two Refuges with spaces were unable to accept her application for various reasons (proximity and social mix) and the National Helpline was not available that day. This was resolved by her fleeing to her Mother's flat which also meant that she received family support until she moved into her new home.

## **Unexpected benefits**

- Kathy referred herself to a Drug Relapse Prevention Programme and is now free of drugs
- Kathy said that she had felt so supported that she had not reverted to self harming and was no longer suicidal. She said that she felt much safer, happier and in control of her life again.
- Kathy said that her health had also improved as she no longer had stomach pains and was no longer physically shaking from anxiety
- Kathy recognised that 'the officials' had been very helpful and wanted them to be thanked.

Kathy said "You were very efficient and friendly. When I heard it was a volunteer service I thought it wouldn't be very professional but I was wrong. You have done everything for me."

*(Name and some details altered to preserve anonymity – client gave permission for a case study)*