Volunteering in Care Homes Project Update

January 2016

Volunteer Management Training

In the interim evaluation report, it was highlighted that care home staff would like to understand more about their roles as volunteer managers. In the last few months we have invited all participating care homes to an introductory session to volunteer management. This has been well received by the staff, “Really enjoyed it, feel more confident going forward”. It provided an opportunity for many to reflect on how they could improve their practice, “We need to ensure that all volunteers have a warm welcome, enjoy their time and understand the environment they are volunteering in”.

Introduction

Happy New Year

In this penultimate edition of the project’s newsletter, we bring you up to date with our progress to handover the volunteer management roles and responsibilities to the participating care homes, together with our plans for sharing the final evaluation report and good practice toolkit. What is clear from the emerging findings, as highlighted in Justin Davis Smith’s blog, (link on page 2), is that volunteers have much to contribute, not only to the wellbeing of residents and relatives, but to the care homes and their local communities.

Dementia Congress

On the 5th November Matt Hill, Senior Researcher at the Institute for Volunteering Research, presented a session on, “Volunteering in care homes – what is the evidence of impact and how it can be developed?”

Attending the event was important, not only for sharing our work, but also for hearing about the emerging good practice from other projects, along with the current thinking on how to develop more integrated person-centred dementia care. Of particular interest was the workshop presented by Luke Tanner from Dementia Care Matters on, “Person-centred approaches in late stage dementia care”. His reflections on how meaningful activities help to reduce stress in people with dementia helped to explain some of our observations from across the pilot sites. For the summary of the event and some of the presentations go to http://www.careinfo.org/ukdc-2015/
In the final month of the project we will be hosting three regional Learn and Share events to present the final evaluation findings, launch the Volunteering in Care Homes Good Practice Toolkit and hear your thoughts on the project’s legacy.

To book a place at one of the regional events, please visit the link below:
http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/national-council-for-voluntary-organisations-ncvo-5935536939

In the meantime, do read the reflections of Justin Davis Smith, Executive Director of Volunteering Development at NCVO, on the emerging evaluation findings in one of his recent blogs,

**Update on Volunteer Induction Training Resources**

We have now added to the list of resources a training guide with notes to accompany the slideshow for any members of care home staff wanting to deliver the volunteer induction training. Care home staff on a couple of the sites have already been delivering this training to new volunteers and the feedback has been very positive.

“It was very inclusive and open. There was just the right amount of learning and contribution”. The volunteers valued the opportunity to learn more from the staff about the home and what to expect. One volunteer was reassured by being able to, “talk about difficult situations and how to react ... we went through a lot of scenarios”.

**Next steps: Roundtable**

The Strategic Advisory Group is hosting “an invitation only” roundtable in early March to bring together their contacts within organisations such as the Care Quality Commission, Department of Health and NHS England, to present the evaluation findings and discuss how the learning can be taken forward.

**Volunteer training resources:**


http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/volunteering

**Get in touch...**

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