

# SOC General Meeting

## 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 5pm via Teams

**Attendance:** Alice, Angela, April, Ashraf, Brenda, Dawn, Donna, Ellie, Emma, Florence, Gill, Gillian, Hazel, Jackie, Kathy, Kim, Kirsty, Lorna, Maureen, Melanie, Michael, Michelle, Nichola B, Nichola L, Pauline, Ray, Renata, Steph & Wendy (29)

**Apologies:** Claire, Hazel, Katie, Lauren, Sam, Susan & Yvonne (7)

1. **Finances:** We currently have over £250,000 in bank, we have no outstanding debts, and all funding streams are paid up to date. 2021 Accounts are ready to finalise and will be ready for the AGM in May. Essell accountants in North Shields will continue to complete our yearly accounts and report to FCA.

### 2. **Funding:**

- Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is one of our main funding streams and currently runs until March 2023, this is their Rape support fund and allows us to work with anyone from 18 years old who has been affected by abuse.
  - MOJ – Male uplift ends April 2022; this was an additional fund to provide counselling support to Male victims of abuse.
  - Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner (NPCC) supporting victims fund ends March 2022 however this has been extended for 6 months whilst making changes. This fund supports our Safer Futures project which provides counselling in schools.
  - NPCC Sexual Violence/Domestic abuse also ends 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, this was an additional fund to provide counselling support to victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse. We were also awarded an additional £3438 in early March to help reduce our waiting times.
  - Children in Need ends summer 2022 – this fund has been extended for 1 year while they make some changes to their process.
  - The National Lottery Community Fund awarded us another 3 years of funding which started in November 2021. The lottery has previously awarded us 6 years now and this will be our third round of funding our Male Voices Heard project.
  - Community Foundation awarded us £3,000 to help reduce our waiting times.
- 
- Our Safer Futures project supports ten schools in the local area, 9/10 school's pay a small percentage of the running costs of this project and NPCC covers the rest.
  - Co-op Good causes continue to make donations to us as a nominated charity within their stores, they have previously donated a hamper for us to raffle off and will be donating Easter Eggs in the next few weeks.
  - Victims First donated £13,500 to use as we feel fit, this money will be used to bring in more sessional work.
  - Metro Radio – Cash for Kids mission Christmas continued to support our most vulnerable families at Christmas time and provided Pantomime tickets to families in need of a treat.
  - Royal Grammar school Newcastle fundraised in June 2021 and raised £1259.59 which was donated to us towards the end of 2021.

# SOC General Meeting

## 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 5pm via Teams

### 3. SOC Update:

- We have five new counsellors starting with us over the next few weeks Jean, Lauren, Sam, Simon, and Renata. We also have one qualified counsellor Annaliese starting towards the end of April. Welcome to SomeOne Cares.
- The demand for counselling is at an all-time high and decided to recruit again in Summer for new student counsellors, normally we would only take on a small number at one time however we feel by the time this happens our new lot of students will be settled in.
- GDPR Training was sent out recently, can everyone prioritise this training so we are all up to date.
- Pallion move went smoothly, Gill and Pauline spoke about how this is running at the moment and suggestions of how best to assist clients were discussed.
- Donna is making strong connections with The Survivor's Trust, and we are working towards an accreditation with them over the next few months.
- Donna attended Domestic homicide training and has been networking with DASV North Tyneside and Northumberland providers, Sunderland Domestic Abuse & violence against women and girls' operational partnership.
- We have also connected with Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Support Systemwide Manager Groups in North Tyneside, sharing information and mapping what is available. This will continue over the next few months with a result that North Tyneside see the gaps and find suitable arrangements to provide a service for Young People in the area.
- Please can everyone continue to keep room cleaning up, windows open etc - Covid is still around, and we need to keep everyone safe.

### 4. ISVA Update: Ellie spoke of her role as ISVA, Ellie has now been with us 1 year and this role has been very successful. If you missed the meeting and would like more information, it can be found here. <https://someonecares.org.uk/someone-cares-isva/>

### 5. AGM Proposed date Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 5pm – more information closer to date.

### 6. AOB:

Kathy asked if waiting rooms would be reopened – At the present time we feel that as Covid is still around and our waiting room in North Shields does not have any ventilation that waiting rooms will remain closed for the time being, we have found that clients have been quite receptive to the closures and all clients are made aware of this before they attend their appointments.

Jackie spoke of how things were going in Blyth, and we discussed issue which may need taken to the Blyth manager.

**Meeting closed at 17:48**