

Edinburgh Carers Council
AGM
November 2016
Chairpersons Report

Here marks an end to another successful year for Edinburgh Carers Council. Again it has been a privilege to be chair of the organisation over this busy and productive year.

The work over the year from Ruth and the staff team has, as ever has been exemplary. The demand for carer specific advocacy, information and training continues to be high and the team have worked hard to meet the demands and provide an exceptional service for carers in the areas covered.

In addition to this core work of the organisation the team have celebrated the 3rd anniversary of the Carers Forum. A forum that has contributed significantly to the collective advocacy work since its establishment in 2013.

They have also built on our previous contributions to the SMHAFF through the events and Redhall Gardens carer event in June.

From a training perspective the team have contributed to the NHS/CEC training and capacity building for staff, the education of mental health nurses via Edinburgh Napier University training sessions and sessions for Mental Health Officers (MHO). All of which contributes to an informed workforce for future generations.

The staff and management committee came together at the start of 2016 to develop priorities for the organisation for the coming years. One of the key activities of the group has been to develop a Strategic plan to be put in place for the coming year. From a management committee perspective this was a valuable process and one that allowed the members and staff to work together on the project something we plan to continue in the coming year.

From a management committee perspective, much of this year has been dedicated to planning for the future. This started with a revision of the constitution and an update for the Memorandum of Agreement. These were seen as a priority as we move forward into the future with the pending bid for the next lot of advocacy funding.

Moving forward into 2017 and beyond, we are working with our partners ADVOCARD and the Patient's Council to bid again for the advocacy funding and are currently in discussions with our partners to produce a competitive bid that captures our good practice, effective working relationships and knowledge and skills for advocating for carers in Edinburgh and the Lothian's. As ever we are also looking at alternative, additional and complementary funding for the work of the organisation to meet the needs of carers.

I would like to formally thank the staff and the management committee for their hard work over the past year and their continued support, guidance commitment to Edinburgh Carers Council.

Gwenne McIntosh
Chair
2015/16