

# DERBYSHIRE CARERS ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at County Hall, Matlock

on Thursday 23rd September 2010

### 1) Welcome and Introductions

The 2010 Annual General Meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Bridget Leech. Bridget welcomed all members, board and staff in attendance and asked if anyone needed the aid of a signer. Bridget thanked Christine Bell who resigned from the position of chair last year after 5 years to take up a new post for the Stroke Association.

Bridget talked about her past as a GP and her caring role for her husband for 8 years. Now an ex-carer she spoke of the need for Carers to keep healthy and have time for themselves and how DCA can support them. Bridget thanked Helen Robinson, CEO for her hard work re-organising and modernising DCA with the support of Joanne Goodison, Head Office Manager and all ACO's and staff.

### 2) Apologies

Bridget gave apologies for Vicky Davison [DCA Trustee], Ray Jones [DCA Trustee] and Claire Raw [DCC].

Other apologies were received from:

R Bowden	
Dawn Petts	
Lisa Barker	DCA Staff
Elspeth Jones	DCA Trustee
Sandra Pomerantz	DCA Trustee

### 3) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2009

(i) Acceptance: The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24th September 2009 were accepted as a true record – proposed by Mike Foster and seconded by Reg Jackson.

(ii) Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### 4) Annual Report & Financial Report – April 2009 - March 2010

Helen Robinson presented highlights from the Annual Report. HR said DCA has had a busy year and now there is a greater range of services and more staff in place. HR talked about Caring with Confidence, the re-arrangement of management, the Contingency Plan extra staff and the happy and productive team of ACO's and staff across the county. HR said that the past year has seen 770 home visits, 239 to carers outside their

home, 3380 telephone support calls by ACO's with more than 6,000 from Head Office, 234 support groups were held and Caring With Confidence held 280 sessions.

HR talked about the success of events held during Carers Week and Carers Rights Day including the Cathedral Services held in Derby and Chesterfield and the Carers Ball in Matlock. HR asked everyone if they could submit any ideas they may have for future events for Carers.

HR thanked Kevin Miles for his hard work modernising the newsletter and stated how Carers enjoy reading it and how it helps them to feel that they are not alone. She also thanked volunteer Julie White for setting up and continuing to update the website and facebook page and thanked all DCA staff and Trustees.

#### 5) Appointment of Auditors 2010 - 2011

Helen Robinson proposed the appointment of new auditors Barber, Harrison & Platt as the accounts are now more complex and they have experience of working with charities. Reg Jackson proposed this and John Connaughton seconded it.

#### 6) Election of Management Board

Bridget Leech offered her resignation as Chairperson. Vicky Davison will be taking up the role for one year. BL invited additional people to come along as new faces on the Management Committee and asked if anyone would be interested.

Chairperson Vicky Davison  
Vice-Chairperson Vita Snowden

Member Ray Jones  
Member Margaret Elspeth Jones  
Member Deborah Margaret Race  
Member Sandra Pomerantz  
Member Paul Edwin Loble

The nominations for the Officers, and Members of the Board were unanimously approved by members and those listed above duly voted in on block.

The meeting broke for a 30 minute break for buffet and refreshments.

#### 7) Speakers:

##### Lynne O'Brien, ACO for High Peak Central

Lynne talked about her role as ACO since 1992 and how the job has changed and grown over the years and the constant work to find hidden carers. Lynne introduced Carer, Christine who joined DCA in 1992. Christine spoke about her multiple caring roles over the years and how DCA has continued to support her.

##### Lynda Hammond, Caring With Confidence

Lynda talked about her role as Project Manager for Caring with Confidence which started in 2009 and how it has grown and benefited Carers in Derby and Derbyshire. She

spoke of the different sessions that Carers could access, how they benefitted from these and how it helped to empower them and reduce stress. Lynda talked about how unfortunate that the project has been cancelled early and funding withdrawn by the Government and that this is a huge blow to Carers. She said that hopefully there may be other options for in-house sessions and possible specialist sessions in the future but this will be down to funding. LH thanked Kye Pickard, CWC administrator for her vital role in the project.

### Deborah Gough, ACO Area Manager

Deborah talked about DCA's vision for the future 'Moving with the Times'.

DG said that significant changes are necessary so that we do not become outdated and left behind and that funding is at a premium and we need to be prepared. She talked about outcomes such as increasing Carers' awareness, early intervention and reducing stress and that we need to work closely with GP's and Health Services to help Carers at diagnosis to starting to care.

DG said that the internal and external changes in DCA have all been positive. She talked about the success of the new leaflet design, updated newsletter and that DCA has achieved PQASSO Level 1 and are working to Level 2.

DG thanked everyone for their support and commitment.

### 7) Carers Questions

#### "Can DCA have Carers Centres for face to face contact instead of just by telephone?"

Helen Robinson said these are difficult to provide across the county due to limited funding. There will be new premises in Derby on Friar Gate where a drop-in for Carers will be available and planning permission is going through at the moment. HR also said that premises in Chesterfield are being looked into. HR hopes that this will enable volunteers to become more involved.

#### "Could DCA have a freephone telephone contact number?"

HR and Joanne Goodison have looked into this but due to the costs involved DCA does not have the funding at the moment. Joanne has looked into a 0300 number which is slightly cheaper but this is also a cost issue for the charity.

#### "Why is DCA not affiliated to other charities?"

HR said that DCA is affiliated to Carers UK and in the process of being affiliated to the Princess Royal Trust for Carers which should be up and running by Christmas this year. HR also said that DCA work very closely with the Alzheimer's Society, Age UK and Derby Lions Club who are donating a computer for carers to access at the new upcoming Derby office.

“Why not promote social pages, e.g. facebook in the DCA leaflet?”

HR said that this information is in the leaflet but is quite small and that DCA need to make it more prominent.

“Why is the AGM always held in Matlock, can it be in other areas?”

HR asked for a show of hands if anyone would like to rotate the venue around the county. The show of hands was 50/50. Bridget Leech said that in 2000 it was alternated between Derby and Matlock. HR said that she needs to consult more widely and put the proposition in the newsletter.

“Will Caring with Confidence be re-instated in the future?”

HR Stated that DCA are looking to continue a few sessions in house on a limited scale but as the funding had finished this needs to be looked at further. A Carer asked if we could lobby MP's and HR said this was a possibility but that the Government made the decision to cut the funding 3 months earlier than planned.

“Derbyshire County Council have announced changes to social services charges to care and will withdraw services to people with low needs, can DCA lead on this?”

HR said she is aware of the effect this will have on Carers but the Board have decided that as DCA is not a campaigning organisation we cannot do this as we do not have the funding or staff to take this on board. HR said that DCA will continue to make sure that Carers have as much updated information as possible about the proposals.

HR thanked everyone for sending in their questions. There was no other business.

8) Date of AGM 2011

September 2011 – date and venue to be confirmed.

The business meeting was then closed by Chairperson Bridget Leech.

The formal business ended at 8.55 pm.