

NANSA Annual Report 2013

Adult Services. We celebrated the completion of the 2012 OCN accredited courses with an OCN awards day in September. We continue to take on new referrals, with the adult service running at about 90% capacity. This year we have shifted the start of the OCN courses to September, in line with other educational centres. A highlight of the year was our involvement in the UEA two days of sports taster sessions days set up by Active Norfolk. The Members' Forum meets regularly and it is hoped to continue establishing good links from service users through to management and vice versa. All service users now have a personal budget, enabling them to choose their preferred service and provider.

Youth & Transition Services. Group numbers for Saturday and Holiday Short Breaks for young people aged 11-17. have remained steady throughout the year. Feedback from Norfolk County Council Childrens Services Access & Services Team, which funds our Youth Services, has once again been positive. Springboard continues to be a popular part of our provision, attended by a group of young adults aged 18-25 on alternate Tuesday evenings and the activities are chosen by the group members. Springboard was supported in 2012-13 by a grant from the Youth Transition fund, but from April 2013 will be funded entirely by member subscriptions.

The second year of the PIP Project, which facilitates young people with disabilities to review the short breaks services, has proved challenging but very successful in meeting the project's requirements, aims and objectives. A partnership with West Norfolk Deaf Association has been a particularly positive development.

Parents of young people with disabilities aged 18+ worked with NANSA and other voluntary and statutory agencies to consider the transition needs of youngsters moving into Adult Services. As a result NANSA

established our 18+ Holiday Programme, funded by Paul Bassham Trust and The Anguish Foundation which has proved to be very popular and highly successful. We are also in the process of setting up a new fortnightly Saturday 18+ service.

Train & Trade. Train and Trade at Aylsham Road shop has been solid with the staff team developing trainees' retail skills in a real life shop environment to gain OCN accredited awards. Staff and trainees have worked hard to establish a loyal customer base and we have been rewarded with excellent takings and a steady supply of high quality donated stock.

artshopproject. The artshopproject has continued to offer high quality printing and retail skills training and experience for young adults through the provision of a varied programme of monthly art exhibitions, a reprographics facility and a retail outlet selling new and donated art materials. We offer OCN accredited retail skills training with the aim of helping prepare trainees for the world of work and are successful in achieving this, with several trainees being accepted onto other work experience programmes and one securing a full time job.

Early Years During the past year the Early Years team has provided five School for Parents groups and one Early Years Big Ideas group per week. In addition the team has run Infant Massage, a FIZ after school club for 5 – 10 year olds, Summer Activity Days during August and the Santa drop in. Families are offered twice yearly private Parent Consultations and a Keyworker is provided for every family attending a service. Early Years staff team members have attended and contributed to: reviews, keywork, CAF (Common Assessment Framework), Statements of Special Educational Need, and transition meetings to support all families using NANSA services. All the Early Years staff have completed NANSA's core training programme.

Referrals & Inclusion. Over the year we have developed our links with complex needs schools where NANSAs has taken part in parents' information sessions and transition events. We have also visited all the main voluntary/third sector providers for our clients to forge closer partnership

working and to share information. We have arranged for staff from potential referring agencies to visit NANSAs to learn more about our services. We have improved our contact with key staff in Norfolk County Council Childrens and Adult Services and have made presentations to staff meetings. Our referral numbers are continuing to increase with a record number of referrals received in recent months.

We have started to identify work opportunities in house for clients who will be carrying out reception duties and are working with colleagues to extend opportunities in our charity shops and at our warehouse. We have set up a range of opportunities for social inclusion including voluntary work experience for individual clients. We are forming links with employment related projects and with potential employers so that we can support clients currently on our training projects to move on to suitable work related activity.

Fundraising activities.

Fundraising events this year have included Valentines day at Asda, The Police Youth Panel's fun run, St Andrews Fleamarket, an assault course by Germaines Seed Technology (Kings Lynn), regular sky dives, the Duke of Wellington pub's quizzes etc. and a parent completing the London Marathon. NANSAs has also received grants from the Community Matters, Active Norfolk, Anguish's Educational Foundation, Norfolk Community Foundation, Youth Transition fund, Paul Bassham, Norfolk Investment fund, Santander Foundation, Black Sheep Cricket Club and Greggs Foundation.

Collection tins are still a very good source of funding raising £3600 since last July. We

are very grateful for the continued support of NANSAs Bowls league and South Norfolk Scope who have continued to send generous donations. Donors such as Harold Dean Charities have also continued to support us over the past year. Grateful thanks to Peter Herring who is retiring from his voluntary role of counting our collection tin money and other voluntary duties after many years of service.

Shops. Profits from the shops have continued at a good level, although donations of goods have decreased slightly due to the recession. The Earlham Rd shop was closed for over 3 months due to flooding from work carried out in the flats above. Thousands of bags of donations from UEA were most welcome to help replenish stock levels.

NANSAs plans for the coming year include

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- New Adult centre Summer programme with a real emphasis on healthy living and fun
- A new Catering Training Project through the establishment of a Café and Catering Service
- The Springboard Group age range will increase to include members aged 18 to 30 years
- New artshopproject printing services, upcycling activities and community art workshops
- Establishment of an enhanced Safeguarding Action Plan across all NANSAs services

In conclusion, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to a very hectic but productive year at NANSAs.

Gill Doy, Chairman