

Community Base participant group meeting 30th August 2007

The meeting was attended by Colin and Annette (Community Base), Sarah (Friends, Families and Travellers), Nicola (Community and Voluntary Sector Forum), David (NHS Support Federation), Bob (Community Base trustee), Sheila (Carers Centre) and Vicky (Sussex Interpreting Services).

1 Community Base's carbon footprint

Colin updated everyone on what Community Base is doing to reduce its carbon footprint, including installing ecubes in fridges, taking steps to reduce the use of one-use crockery and cutlery and looking into installing wind turbines.

2 Composting

Sarah suggested we compost waste from the kitchens which is almost all organic waste. Annette said she would look into this.

3 Mice

Vicky expressed concern that there still seemed to be mice in the building. Annette said the problem had arisen because of road works in the area, involved few mice and was being addressed with poison and professional advice. The advice we had received was that the best thing we could do to reduce the problem was to seal food. Annette said she would email the email group about the issue.

4 Bullying and harassment

Colin said that Community Base was committed to ensuring the building was a safe place to work and visit and had introduced a bullying and harassment policy to make this commitment clear. A lot of people come to Community Base in crisis and in need and everyone has a responsibility to ensuring that the building, especially our reception, is a safe place where aggressive behaviour from anyone is unacceptable.

5 Volunteer search

Colin said that following July's participant group meeting he had again emailed the Volunteer Centre Brighton and Hove offering to meet them to discuss support for local volunteers but had again not received a reply.

6 Phones

Vicky raised some problems with phones and headsets. Annette said that new headsets were now available that worked with our phone system and cost less than older headsets. There were no plans to replace the phone system or upgrade handsets, which were replaced if faulty.