

Community Base participant group meeting 31st May 2007

The meeting was attended by Colin and Deborah (Community Base), Debbie (Carers Centre), Sally (Community and Voluntary Sector Forum), Michelle (Working Together Project), Sarah (Millenium Volunteers and Community Base trustee), Mel (TB Alert) and Paul (NHS Support Federation and Community Base trustee)

1 Community Base review

There was general agreement that the review had been a success. Debbie felt that people's concerns had been taken on board. Michelle thought the new policies were a big improvement. Sally said that early, open discussion of potential 'grey areas' was important but was aware that confidentiality could sometimes make this difficult.

People agreed it was useful to have participant group meetings dates worked out well in advance. Colin said there were a number of ways groups could be involved even if they could not attend participant group meetings and that a letter would now be given to people starting at Community Base letting them know how the place was run and what facilities were available.

2 Carbon footprint

Colin reported on the carbon footprint page he had put on the Community Base website pulling together Community Base's actions to reduce its environmental impact. There was agreement that it was important to take action to reduce energy use. Sally mentioned a recent forum meeting that discussed how community and voluntary groups could reduce their carbon footprint and influence other sectors to do so. People were very positive about the new energy saving kettles in the kitchens and conference room. Deborah agreed to let people know how they could get help working them if they have a problem.

Debbie objected to the Carers Centre being asked to use a communal fridge rather than have their own and felt there had been a lack of consultation over the issue. Colin said he thought there had been full consultation including discussions at the last two participant group meetings. Sarah suggested groups could use a thermos flask to keep milk cold if their office was a bit away from a fridge. Mel suggested there might not be a need for two fridges on the fourth floor. Colin agreed to ask Annette to attend the Carers Centre staff meeting next week to discuss the matter further.

3 Hygiene

Deborah agreed to send out an email encouraging people to keep food in sealed containers so as not to encourage mice.

4 Refugee week

Colin invited everyone to food, film and discussion at the Community Base meeting for refugee week on 18th June.