



PERSONALISATION IS HERE

The “Personalisation Agenda” (sometimes called Self Directed support) will radically change the way people access key areas of public service, specifically health and social care. In future people will have the freedom to choose their own provision and tailor it to suit their needs. People themselves know better than anyone else what their needs are, and should be able to work with East Sussex County Council to decide how those needs are best met. Our population is growing, locally and nationally and people are living longer therefore more support is needed to sustain quality of life.



Choosing Your Own Services
Picture by Mosman

Personalisation of social care is part of a massive change over the past thirty years. Previously organisations used a ‘medical model’ of disability and citizenship which viewed people’s impairment as their ‘problem’. The shift towards personalised care is centred around the ‘social model’ which looks beyond a person’s impairment at all the relevant factors surrounding their ability to be a full and equal participant in society - ‘Putting People First’. Its four main themes are:

- Preventing problems and helping early on
- Making sure different types of support available are easily found
- Helping to make best use of community and family support networks
- A new approach to getting the support needed with personal budgets and self-directed support

Self Directed support means individuals can choose to get social care and support to meet their needs in a variety of ways to suit them, the kind of help and where to get it from. This means that support will be more flexible and responsive and the choice to use different businesses and services locally. To make the best choices about care and support the ‘Support with Confidence’ scheme provide a list of providers of care and support services who have been successful approved and undergone the appropriate training and background checks.

The challenge inherent in these changes is that current providers of social care will need to compete in an open market place to sell their services, instead of relying on Service Level Agreements (SLA’s) to deliver clients to them. This will require them to learn new skills in order to gain and keep clients and sustain their delivery. Personalisation means thinking about public services and social care in an entirely different way - starting with the person rather than the service. Although this shift will take time it should ultimately mean change at every level so that people are encouraged to stay healthy and independent.

So how will Personalisation work?
Here is an example of how someone can use their personal budget.

Mrs T is an older person living in an isolated rural community. Her husband died 2 years ago and her 2 daughters live some distance away. One visits weekly but the other about once every 6 months. Mrs T has become increasingly forgetful and both daughters became very concerned for her. They asked the local GP, and the Adult Social Care area office for assistance.

A community care assessment was carried out for Mrs T who wanted her daughter present. The daughters wanted their mother to move into sheltered residential accommodation some distance away but Mrs T was adamant that she did not want this. But Mrs T is unable to drive, there are no shops in her village and she was becoming increasingly cut off from services and friends. She tried booking taxis to take her places but increasingly she forgot that she had rung them and turned them away when they arrived. This resulted in her being refused service by all the local taxi firms.

Now, as a result of now receiving a personal budget, Mrs T can use the money to pay a neighbour to accompany her or to take her other places. This has allowed Mrs T to access shopping and enabled her to make independent choices about her own needs. As a result she remained in her own home with her friends and family nearby.

More information

ESCC Adult Social Care has recently launched the Support with Confidence scheme.
<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/socialcare/adults/careservices/approvedproviders/providerpage.htm>
 Or for opportunities to become a supplier
<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/doingbusiness/tendering/suppliers/default.htm>

Or contact for more information from ESCC
lucy.tapley@eastsussex.gov.uk for further information on an online resource directory for suppliers
Royston.collins@eastsussex.gov.uk Service Placement Team
beja.morrison@eastsussex.gov.uk Support Planning and Brokerage learning project

Big Society Watch

The Big Society is rumoured to be coming our way sometime next year. But what is it? There still seems to be quite a debate on what exactly the Big Society is but it seems to have the following characteristics:

- ✦ Increased social responsibilities for individuals and families with policies that nudge people in a particular direction; 'our ambition is for every adult in the country to be a member of an active community group
- ✦ Localism – power decentralised to the lowest possible level including empowering communities to take over local amenities such as parks and libraries
- ✦ Greater responsibility for civil society and a focus on the 'little platoons' undertaking social action projects – 'a society where people come together to solve problems and improve life for themselves and their communities';
- ✦ Fostering a culture of philanthropy and voluntarism;
- ✦ Increased accountability of Government including a right to know and a right to data; Greater activity being undertaken by the third sector and wider civil society



So what's been announced to date? As far as we can tell these are the key announcements

- ✦ The role of the Office for Civil Society at Ministerial and civil servant levels for the Big Society;
- ✦ The proposals for a Big Society Bank funded from unclaimed bank assets 'to provide new finance for neighbourhood groups, charities, social enterprises and non Governmental bodies. This will provide social enterprises with the start-up funding and support they need to bid for
- ✦ Government contracts or work towards delivering services under a payment by results model'.
- ✦ National Citizens Service for 16 to 19 year olds as a flagship Big Society project ;
- ✦ The four pilot Big Society vanguard projects – Liverpool; Eden Valley, Cumbria; Windsor ; and Sutton;
- ✦ Some 5,000 community organisers to build local networks and leadership to be funded under the OCS budget;
- ✦ The Communities First Neighbourhood Grant Fund, details of which are due by the end of 2010. This replaces the previous Government's Grassroots Grants Scheme;
- ✦ Big Society Day;

RVA will keep you informed as the Big Society gets rolled out.

SUPPORTING LOCAL ACTION PLANS Traffic Calming

Almost all the parishes in Rother have now completed Local Action Plans (LAPs) and over the last few months Rother Voluntary Action has been working directly with parishes in Rother, offering support with the implementation of some of those Actions from within their Plans.



Many of Rother's LAPs included actions relating to calming the speed of traffic through their village. With this in mind RVA hosted and facilitated a Traffic Calming Gateway workshop which was held at Icklesham Memorial Hall on 29th September 2010. The aim of the workshop was to provide a 'one stop shop' to help with the first phase of designing and installing. Photographs and drawings of gateway structures and signage were displayed as examples of those that would meet the necessary roadside regulations. Brian Banks and Michael Oates of ESCC Highways department provided technical guidance and Terry Smith, an approved contractor, was on hand to discuss materials and costs of installation.



The workshop was attended by 19 representatives from 10 parishes and the feedback on the day was extremely positive with all those who completed feedback forms commenting that the objectives of the workshop were well met, their questions answered in a clear and informative way, that the illustrative material was helpful and that in all the workshop provided relevant information to report back to parish councillors to aid their decision making.

A great deal of interest on the subject of traffic calming gateways has been generated with two of those parishes attending already requesting preliminary safety assessments and a further five parishes having further dialogue with Highways on the topic.

Rye Community Flood Wardens

Flood wardens are needed to join a voluntary team on the Tilling Green estate (or immediate environment) to help support the community in the event of river flooding. Volunteers should live in the close area and be able to provide on-the-ground information (community eyes and ears) about rising water levels.



What does a Community Flood Warden do?

Flood Wardens are part the community emergency planning scheme handled by REACT. They are not asked to **take risks** but handle information about potential flooding. They:

- Pass on flood warnings from the Environment Agency at any time of the day or night
- Act as a local conduit to the public for information from the Local Authorities
- Check that neighbours know about issued flood warnings
- Become involved with occasional meetings about flooding
- Identify other neighbours who might help or need help and support

How do I become a flood warden?

Call or E Mail to REACT, care of Rye Town Hall, Market Street, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7LA, telephone 01797 223902
Email townhall@ryetowncouncil.gov.uk

Changes at Pestalozzi.

Following a strategic review of the current Outreach activities at Pestalozzi the Trustees have decided to focus totally on the current Department for International Development (DFID) funded 'A Global Dimension for Sustainable Schools in East Sussex' project and to withdraw from all other Outreach Education activities.

The 'Global Dimension for Sustainable Schools in East Sussex' is an exciting project which has secured a £281,000 grant from DFID over the next three years. We will be working with 11 schools across East Sussex, including Crowhurst CE School, Catsfield CE School and Claverham School, to explore the issues of sustainability through the Global Dimension. Embedding these into the curriculum so that pupils have a better understanding of their global community and ways in which poverty can be reduced in the future. These are issues which will not go away and we need to work together to create an outward facing generation. The schools will also have the opportunity to work with the Pestalozzi students, some of whom will be visiting schools to work with pupils.

Work on this exciting new project has already started, with school's receiving an initial training session to introduce the Global Dimension. Schools are also beginning to review their curriculum, and think about ways they can incorporate a more global perspective while still fulfilling their other priorities. Project Coordinator, Hazel Lawrence, said she has been overwhelmed with the enthusiasm from staff in the schools as they forge ahead with the project.



Small Grants Schemes Currently Open - Contact RVA for more info

Seedcorn Fund This small grants scheme is made available by East Sussex County Council through the Community Partnership Finance (CPF) Programme is to award grants of up to £5,000 to voluntary organisations and community groups across East Sussex wanting to:

- pilot innovative approaches to service delivery
- pilot the delivery of a local service to a wider geographical area
- develop new approaches to user involvement in service delivery

Other Open Funds

Awards 4 All	£10,000 over 2 years	Better life chances, stronger communities, Improved environments more accessible, healthier and more active communities	www.awardsforall.org.uk
Grant for Arts	£1,000+	Art for individuals and organisations	www.artscouncil.org.uk
Heritage	£3000-£50,000	Celebrate or look after heritage	www.hlf.org.uk
Sport England	£300-£10,000	Local sports projects	www.sportengland.org
Co-op Community Fund	£100-£2,000	Community based Long-term community benefit Support co-operative values	www.co-operative.coop/



Talk and Support

Telephone Service The Association of Carers has been providing a free respite service to Carers in Hastings since 1987. Carers look after a spouse, partner, family member or friend who is unwell, the care they provide is unpaid. Following a successful grant application for Comic Relief funding TAOC are delighted to announce the launch of their new **Talk & Support** telephone service. A trained volunteer, usually a former carer with experience of caring for someone with a similar condition/disability contacts the Carer by telephone on a weekly basis, on the same day and at the same time for around half an hour. This provides the Carer with an independent and supportive ear and the opportunity to discuss their caring role in confidence.



Referrals

Carers are able to refer themselves to the service. TAOC also takes referrals from health and social care professionals and other voluntary organisations. If you would like to make a referral, please contact them on 01424 722 309 or go to the website: www.associationofcarers.org.uk for more information.

Volunteers

TAOC would like to hear from you if you are interested in volunteering. Are you a former Carer or do you have empathy for someone in a caring role? Would you like to help a current Carer feel supported?

Volunteering creates many opportunities, from meeting new and like-minded people to gaining work experience and learning new skills.

Talk & Support volunteers will receive professional counselling training and other relevant training every two months as part of their role. There are also social events throughout the year.

They are also looking for volunteers for their respite sitting service, and to help out with driving, fundraising and administration. Please contact TAOC on 01424 722 309 if you are interested.

The Rye Fund - Successes

Thanks to the generosity of local people and with the benefit of substantial match funding received under the government's Grassroots Endowment Challenge, The Rye Fund has now reached just over **£60,000**. Groups benefiting in the first round of funding included ARCC which was able to replace a computer to enable its members to play, make paintings and learn new skills - and Age Concern. The Directors of Rye Museum expressed their thanks again to the Rye Fund for the generous donation which allowed them to purchase a projector for the East Street site. They have been able to use it frequently and it has really enhanced both their public lectures for the Adult Education aspects of their work and also research for both schools and University. The Methodist choir were also delighted to receive funds from the Rye Community Fund, which enabled them to buy much needed new modern books of anthems and Christmas carols. For further information please contact John Holbrook, Chairman, Rye Fund Local Panel, on 01797 229 364 or visit the Sussex Community Foundation website www.sussexgiving.org.uk/apply-for-funding/our-application-process.php



Rye Museum

Hastings & Rother Health & Social Care Forum are



looking for new Rother members to join the Steering group.

The Forum exists to promote better links between groups and develop lines of communication and representation between the voluntary/community sector and statutory agencies on practical, policy and strategic issues. The forum is managed by a steering group, elected from the wider membership, who meet every two months to ensure that current issues are fully discussed and the views of members and users are accurately represented by decision makers and those with a responsibility for service planning. The Forum welcomes the active involvement of groups and individuals from all parts of the community with an interest in Health and Social Care Issues. The Forum has recognised a present imbalance between the representation from Hastings groups and from those in Rother and is keen to redress this. The work of the Forum is to:

- Ensure good communication to local groups
- Provide opportunities for local groups to discuss current initiatives
- Offer practical support to new groups who are starting in the area
- Ensure that groups who have been under-represented in the past can have a clearer and stronger voice in the health and social care agenda.

The Forum organises through several theme groups.

- The Children & Families Reference Group
- The Well Being Group
- The Voluntary Organisations Supporting Older People Group

For more information please contact Cheryl Davis, Administrator to the Forum at HVA on 01424 444010 cheryl@hvauk.org
If you would like to talk about joining the steering group please contact the Chair: Mr Roger Sweetman at roger.sweetman@virgin.net

Featured Group : BEG

Bexhill Environmental Group (BEG) was founded in August 2010 to protect and improve the Bexhill environment and promote a sustainable green future . Its first meeting attracted 10 people, its second 30 people and it continues to grow and is looking at a variety of activities to make a difference in Bexhill



BEG has started an area of activity called 'Every Tree Matters'. Here BEG seeks to protect trees and promote tree planting. So far this is small scale work but it is both practical and symbolic. In its very modest way it tries to show that trees can be part of our way forward - locking up carbon, helping biodiversity, increasing habitat for wildlife and making a more beautiful environment. Recently BEG's tree planting work went global. On 10th October at ten minutes past ten - or 10:10 on the 10/10/10 - BEG joined the Global Work Party, to tackle climate change. For a week it was possible to go online to websites such as 350.org and zoom into a map of the world to see what BEG were planning. BEG chose 10th October to prepare the planting pits, in the grassy area in front of Bexhill Police Station, ready for the Cherry Plum trees they will plant in November, to be part of the action against climate change. BEG started work at 10:10 to further symbolise the need to cut our carbon emissions by 10% at a time, starting this year. Holding up ten biodegradable green balloons underlined the message. And the balloons were re-used in a Bexhill primary school, so that was perfect.

Another side to BEG's work is Locally Produced, Organic, Animal Friendly and Fairly Traded (LOAF). To promote LOAF, BEG went Scrabbling at Bexhill Farmers Market in August, challenging market visitors to Scrabble contests. Everyone who played BEG at Scrabble won a prize of market produce. BEG was also at the market sharing tips on alternatives to insecticides in the garden.

BEG has also begun to populate its website section 'Bexhill is SWELL', which stands for Stuff We Like a Lot, with examples of environmental good practice while other areas of work which BEG hopes to develop include marine environmental action and environmental education. In its November meeting BEG took another step forward as an organisation and has now formally adopted its constitution and elected its Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee. To round of the year BEG are having a tree planting ceremony where school children will be invited along to join us in our little celebration and we are delighted that Greg Barker will attend. BEG will be attending the Bexhill public meeting called 'The Greenest Government Ever?' which BEG is co-promoting with Friends of the Earth. As you can see Baby BEG has taken some strong first steps in its short life, but it has been helped at several critical stages by Rother Voluntary Action - with a meeting room, office facilities, advice, guidance and encouragement - so it is great to have the infant's story right here in Rother Community Times. BEG meets at 7.00 pm, with refreshments from 6.45 pm, on the first Thursday of every month (except January) at The Meeting Room, Parkhurst Hall, Parkhurst Road, Bexhill. Everyone is welcome to the meetings.



www.bexhillenvironmentalgroup.org.uk and email info@bexhillenvironmentalgroup.org.uk

Featured Trust : Four Acre Trust



Four Acre Trust supports charities (working in the following areas:

Mentoring schemes – Mentoring schemes for young people aiming to achieve a significant change in lifestyle and aspirations. They cannot fund schemes linked to school or college. **Youth work in local communities** – Core costs of local youth organisations using volunteers to deliver programmes for young people aimed at improving their future prospects. They cannot fund schemes that are properly the responsibility of the youth service. **Breaks and holidays for young people** – They support charities providing opportunities for young people and their families to experience challenging activities on a holiday or short break. They expect beneficiaries or their families to contribute to the cost. They do not fund overseas trips or visits to holiday camps unless it can be shown the beneficiaries cannot participate in something more challenging. **School holiday activity schemes** – They will part fund so long as beneficiaries make a contribution to the cost. They cannot support schemes that are simply a child care service during school holidays. **Adventure and other training centres** – They support charities booking places at adventure training centres. Grants can be for core costs or specific purposes, but applications must clearly show what the need is and how it is to be met. Grants range from £3,000 to £75,000. They like to repeat fund. You don't have to be innovative – just efficient at your service provision and must respond promptly, succinctly and factually to any queries they raise relating to your application. Trustees meet in February, April, June, August, October and December. Applications are usually processed within three months.

Four Acre Trust, Treferanon, St Weonards, Hereford HR2 8QF Tel: 01981 580002 Email: info@fouracretrust.org.uk

Jenny Private from HOMECALL writes..

The voluntary sector is going through a tough time and it looks to be getting tougher. I am writing this article to encourage you all because as the saying goes - 'When the going gets tough the tough get going'

I am the Scheme Manager for Homecall and I think most would agree that it doesn't get much tougher than it did for us. From a relatively small charity operating in Hastings, Rural Rother and Bexhill, Homecall became a countywide charity in the year 2000, when we were granted funding by East Sussex County Council under the Promoting Independence Grant. In 2006 our funding came to an end and, with no statutory funding, Homecall faced a very uncertain future. After 2 years and a lot of hard work to identify funding from other sources it was a very sad day when our countywide service came to an end with the closure of all the areas other than Bexhill on Sea.

Two years on Homecall is still running in Bexhill on Sea and the surrounding areas within the TN39/TN40 postcodes, and we intend to continue to do so for a very long time to come. It was jolly hard work to raise the funds needed to continue and it was jolly hard work to raise the profile in our town sufficiently to inform everybody of our plight. But we did it because when you know there are people needing your support all that hard work is so worthwhile.

To succeed in the current climate you need to be energetic and determined. If you believe your cause is worth fighting for, fight for it. Homecall has received no statutory funding since 2006, we depend entirely on grants, legacies and donations from businesses, associations, organisations, clubs and individuals living in our town and I thank every single one of them. In 2006 Homecall received the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. This was a very special accolade, recognising the good work of our volunteers. If Her Majesty the Queen believed in our good work there was no way I was going to allow the charity to disappear. This year, 2010, Homecall celebrated it's 25th Anniversary. It is a year we, at one point, thought we wouldn't reach. But we have and we now look forward to a more stable future, thanks to the support we have received from the town we live in.



NETWORKING DATES - 2011

Rye Network

All at 2pm at The School Creative Centre, Rye
January 11th
April 5th
July 5th
October 4th

Funding Advice funded by



Muddy Boots

All at 2pm at The Watch Oak, Battle
February 10th
May 5th
August 4th
November 3rd

Bexhill Community Network

All at 2pm Town Hall, Bexhill
March 9th
June 8th

BROWNBREAD HORSE RESCUE

Lord Brett McLean of Hastings opened the Brownbread Horse Rescue fete on the 12th September to which about 1,000 visitors came. All the rescued horses and donkeys were stabled for the day to be pampered.

The pedigree and novelty dog show attracted nearly 100 dogs and owners and rosettes and trophies were distributed. On stage were performances from The Senlac Highsteppers, the Icenii Belly Dancers, the Raks Habibi group, the Ooh Lala Cancan dancers. The Children's corner was kept busy and the pony rides had a queue all day and, similarly the tack shop was busy with sales and donations. Being fortunate with a fine weather £5,620. was raised on the day. The next Open Day is on the 15th May 2011, 10.30 to 4pm. Enquiries/stall bookings 01424 892381.



ROTHER COMMUNITY TIMES

is produced by

Rother Voluntary Action

email:
tina.hall@rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk



Download an electronic copy at
www.rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk

Old Bank Chambers
1 Buckhurst Road
Bexhill on sea
East Sussex
TN40 1QF
01424 217259

Rye Partnership Office
25 Cinque Ports Street
Rye
East Sussex
TN31 7AD
01797 229750

Notices of publications, events and services do not necessarily carry an endorsement by RVA nor do they represent the views of RVA

Registered Charity No: 1117546 Company No. 5333784