



Evaluation for Chit Chat Project

The project we carried out was an activity that met local need. The need for the older people to increase their mobility and interact with each other contributes to their general well being. PMF had identified the gap in the services and as a result have run luncheon club for the target group. Currently we have initiated to commence a social club and look to maintain this long term depending on future funding to support the idea. We shared our ideas and promoted the activity through out all areas of Preston but especially in Deepdale ward and also invited Help Direct to come and speak to the attendees and see the project for themselves. We will continue to explore appropriate funding opportunities in order to increase the participation from older people.

The attendees were predominately from the Deepdale, Fishwick/St Matthews and Ribbleson area. We had 8-10 attendees and about six people attend regularly. We had quite a few absences from the attendees due to their personal health problems and as attendees were away for 4-6 weeks for pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. But we still maintained the group and opened up the centre even if 4-6 people attended. We also had guest speakers come in from other organisations that we felt the attendees could benefit from for example; Pukar Disability & Resource Centre, Preston Carers Centre and British Red Cross to speak about their services and about their roles in the organisations and distribute any relevant information.

We even promoted the activity in the PMF Celebration Event held on 1st October 2011.

Future Improvements:

It is quite sad that small sparks has come to an end. Such small amounts help local activity and groups enormously to maintain or build on what they have started.

Attendees comments:

"I like attending, it gives me a sense of belonging"

"I enjoy coming. This is my time to meet people and have a chat"

"I am grateful to PMF for organising this and I hope in the future there is more activity like this."

Conclusion:

PMF believes overall it has been a new challenge, the group has had its moments due to numbers being low but we have maintained the group and activity which is the integral part of the project.

Dates of Sessions:

15th & 29th Sept, 13th & 27th Oct, 10th & 24th Nov, 8th and 15th Dec 2011.