

Elder Abuse Open Grants Programme E-bulletin February 2008

Welcome to the second evaluation support e-bulletin, our bi-annual publication with updates on the Comic Relief Elder Abuse Grants Programme, the monitoring and evaluation process, news, views and research.

We would like projects to share information and news with us and each other, so please let us know what's new in your project.

Case Study Proforma

Case studies can be a powerful tool to illustrate the difference a project makes to its beneficiaries. We have posted a case study proforma on our website that can be used by any project interested in developing case studies.

Click on 'Case study proforma' on the Resources page of our website - <http://www.blakestevenson.co.uk/comicrelief/index.htm>

Learning Event

The first Elder Abuse Project Learning Event was held at Comic Relief's offices in October 2007. The event was a useful exercise for Comic Relief and Blake Stevenson and, from the feedback we received from project representatives, it seems to have been helpful for you too.

We are planning to hold another learning event in October 2008, and, while this is still some time away, we would like to hear from projects on the topics they would like to cover at this event. Please let us know if you have any thoughts at this stage.


Monitoring and Evaluation – Next Steps


As you are aware, we are in the process of updating our Monitoring and Evaluation Forms 1, 2 and 3. We will be in touch with these revised forms shortly.


The Form 3 that we would like you to complete after the end of March will not have changed in any significant way, so please use the version on our website or the hard copy that we gave you as a guide for now. We ask that you submit your completed form to us by 21 April 2008. Please get in touch if you require any help in completing this form.

The template for Form 3 is available in the Resources section of our website -
<http://www.blakestevenson.co.uk/comicrelief/index.htm>

We're here to help.....

 **Telephone support:** Our monitoring and evaluation telephone helpline is operational between the hours of 9.30am–12.30pm and 1.30pm–4.30pm on **0131 333 3435**. A number of projects have been contacting us and we have been able to provide some helpful advice and information.

 **Email support:** If you would prefer to email us, our monitoring and evaluation email support address is: evaluationsupport@blakestevenson.co.uk. This will be checked towards the end of every day, and we will respond to your query by the end of the next working day.

 **Website support resource:** Our evaluation support website contains a range of information and support tools to help with the monitoring and evaluation process and can be found at www.blakestevenson.co.uk/comicrelief (password for the resources section is 'evaluation').


Key Headlines since our first e-bulletin.....

17 December 2007

Restraint of older people under-reported in care homes

'Rights, Risks and Restraints', a paper published by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), reports that levels of restraint – which can include older people being held in bed, blocked by chairs and even tied into chairs – are much higher than those recorded by staff in care homes.

In response, Gerald FitzGerald, Chief Executive of Action on Elder Abuse, called for immediate and urgent action and collaboration between regulators and care providers to stamp out such abuses. FitzGerald expressed concern that elder abuse is becoming an accepted fact, but not receiving the level of urgency it requires: "if we were talking about tying up children, we would demand immediate action. Why is it unacceptable for a seven year old, but acceptable for a 70 year old?"

 **To read more about 'Rights, Risks and Restraints', go to:**

http://www.csci.org.uk/about_us/press_releases/regulator_calls_summit_to_addr.aspx

10 October 2007

Rise of relatives abusing elderly

Figures released by Women's Aid reveal that 87 pensioners in County Antrim were forced to seek refuge from the charity in 2006 after suffering abuse at the hands of relatives in their own homes.

Rosemary Magill of Women's Aid said, "most abuse of the elderly happens at home from their own families... the perpetrator can be the lifelong partner and it can be domestic abuse grown old – something that's been going on for decades."

 **To read the full story, go to:**

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/7037346.stm

27 September 2007

Caring for Dignity

In September, the Healthcare Commission published 'Caring for Dignity – A National Report on Dignity in Care for Older People while in Hospital'. The Commission did not find any major breaches of national standards, but did emphasise an urgent need for improvements to be made to ensure that the dignity and privacy of older people is respected while they are in hospital.

Hilary Scott, Chair of Action on Elder Abuse, responded to the report by saying "many of the abuses reported to our dedicated telephone helpline go way beyond any lack of dignity to outright failure in services, institutional abuse and, sometimes, criminal activity... the Healthcare Commission's report must be followed up with more bite and real sanctions where abuse occurs, and reward the NHS trusts that proactively uphold and surpass the core standards".

Paul McCann, Director of Policy at Help the Aged, commented that "it's nearly ten years since we first exposed the shortcomings in hospital care and dignity for older people, yet we are still hearing all the time about shocking abuses of dignity".

Gordon Lishman, Director General of Age Concern, said "there has been welcome progress in some areas – such as better help with eating for people who need it. But more needs to be done".



To read the report, go to:

http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/db/documents/Caring_for_dignity.pdf



To read more about the
Healthcare Commissions Dignity in Care Programme, go to:

<http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/healthcareproviders/serviceproviderinformation/reviewsandstudies/studies/dignityincare.cfm>

8 September 2007

Agencies 'failing on carer theft'

Government standards require care agencies to have appropriate policies in place regarding the handling of clients' money – for shopping, collecting pensions and so on. However, a study by the Commission for Social Care Inspection has revealed that over 1000 care agencies – almost a quarter of all care agencies – fail to meet the minimum standards on financial protection.



For more information, go to:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6984648.stm>

29 August 2007

Nurses fear 'elder abuse errors'

A poll of 848 private and NHS nurses carried out by Help the Aged found that nurses are put off reporting suspected cases of elder abuse by a number of factors:

- Fifty-eight percent of nurses said that they would not report a suspected case of elder abuse for fear that they had misinterpreted the situation and that their suspicion was mistaken
- Twenty-six percent said that fear of retribution from the abuser would put them off reporting suspected abuse
- Twenty-three percent would not report abuse due to a fear of upsetting or embarrassing the older person involved.

The survey also revealed a lack of training among nurses in dealing with elder abuse - 43% of respondents had not received any such training, and 68% admitted that this lack of training is a barrier to properly caring for vulnerable adults. Seventy-six percent feel they would benefit from greater support and more training in dealing with elder abuse.

The survey also found that 66% of nurses feel that responsibility for too many patients prevents them from providing the best possible care and a fifth (21%) are unaware of their workplace's policies on the protection of vulnerable adults or whistleblowing.

Jean Gould, legal policy officer for Help the Aged, said "all frontline staff should be receiving training in identifying and recognising signs of elder abuse... training in elder abuse for nurses must be mandatory, together with a legal requirement for protocols to ensure that all professionals respond confidently and take effective action".



To read more, go to:

http://press.helptheaged.org.uk/press/Releases/items/en_elderabusesurvey_290807.htm

Understanding elder abuse in black and minority ethnic groups

Little is known about how elder abuse affects black and minority ethnic communities, and there appears to be a lack of appropriate service support for people in need. Researchers at the University of Stirling are currently preparing a report on a two and a half year research project that aims to fill this knowledge gap by improving knowledge of elder abuse in black and minority ethnic groups, with the intention of informing the development of appropriate services. The report will be completed in mid-2008, and we hope to bring you news about the findings in our next e-bulletin.

Analysis of calls to the Action on Elder Abuse helpline

Analysis of calls that the Action on Elder Abuse helpline receives reveals some shocking facts about elder abuse, as reported by Help the Aged:

- Forty-six percent of people who abuse are related to the person they are abusing, but very rarely (in only 1% of cases) is the abuser the main family carer
- A quarter of those who abuse are sons or daughters
- Seventy-eight percent of abuse is perpetrated against people who are over the age of 70, with 16% of that abuse affecting people over the age of 90
- Those between 80-89 years old are the most vulnerable to abuse
- Two-thirds of abuse is committed at home, by someone in a position of trust
- In 37% of situations, two types of abuse occur simultaneously
- In a third of circumstances, the abuse is perpetrated by more than one person in collusion.

 **Read more here:**

<http://www.helptheaged.org.uk/en-gb/Campaigns/ElderAbuse/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/TheFacts/default.htm>

That's all for now.....

Our next e-bulletin will be with you in August 2008. Please let us know before then if you have any news about your project that you would like to share with others through the e-bulletin.