

Case Study North Somerset Partnership for Older People (POPP) 2007-2009

The Background

In late 2006 North Somerset Council was successful in its bid to the Department of Health to become one of 29 pilot sites for Phase 2 of the national "Partnership for Older People Projects" (POPP), securing two year project funding for the period 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2009. Local evaluators were appointed to assist with providing key information to the National Evaluation Team, as well as responding to the specific evaluation needs identified within the North Somerset project.

The Project Objectives

The aims of the local evaluation were:

- to develop and report on suitable local indicators, to meet the information requirements of the National Evaluation Team;
- to involve local older people, carers and other key stakeholders in a participatory evaluation of the project and its progress in achieving the outcomes set out in the project Application.

The Project

Key questions from the National Evaluation Team were focused on:

- Whether the project achieves a reduction in emergency bed days
- Whether the project helps more older people to live at home
- What impact the POPP interventions have on the quality of life and well being of older people;
- Whether the reconfigured POPP services are cost-effective.

The key questions from North Somerset Council and other local POPP stakeholders were broader in scope and concerned with the needs, processes, performance and outcomes/impact of the project.

At the core of the Evaluation Trust's approach was the engagement of older people, carers and stakeholders in the development and process of the evaluation. Critical to the successful evaluation of this project was the discussion and development of monitoring and evaluation from the very beginning.

The Outcomes

The evaluation enabled the North Somerset POPP to show that it had delivered on its original objectives as well as demonstrating the benefits of:

- close partnership working, especially with Third Sector colleagues at both a strategic and operational level;
- early intervention of low level services and the focus on a preventative agenda both in terms of improved quality of life and also the scope for financial savings;
- the involvement of older people in planning, development and delivery of services.

Four of the five projects are now being sustained through joint finance from North Somerset Council and the PCT.

Contact

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