



Edition 16 - Winter 2016



Welcome to the winter edition of the Moray Shared Lives Newsletter. We are at the end of the year already and it is a time for reflection and looking to the New Year ahead.

Looking back on the past year for our service, we have seen new staff join the office team, the carer team has grown at a pace and a plan is in place for yet more staff to join the team to support the service growth. We have had a recruitment ban in place over the last 3 months, to allow time for all the new carers to settle in to the team and we are now contacting our waiting list of potential new carers who may join our service over 2017. As you may already know, we were also awarded the highest grade – 6 (excellent) from the Care Inspectorate this year too. This is a wonderful accolade for everyone involved with the service, for all the hard work and amazing results achieved.

95 people now attend our day support provision with Moray Shared Lives – providing over 700 hours of care each week. We have 40 current carers across Moray and 3 of them provide a small amount of overnight respite each month too. In the New Year, we will start to provide long term placements within our Moray Service. We have 4 people ear marked to provide the service in the first half of 2017, when suitable placements are identified. This will involve matched people going along to stay with a Shared Lives Family. We have continued support from commissioners to grow the office team in line with the carer team over 2017 and we have a full time clerical assistant, to be based in the office, from the 9th of January. It is certainly an exciting time to be part of the growing Shared Lives Service locally.

Sharing new ideas.....

Peer support within our growing carer team, is increasing all the time and they often meet up to go along to clubs, local cafes etc together. Our carers have thought of some innovative ways to support the people that use the service to meet their full potential, over the last few months. Some have banded together to form our new Shared Lives Craft Group, some meet each week at local public houses to play pool, maintain social contact and community involvement and others have accessed established groups locally e.g. Monday Club, singing groups, Alzheimer Scotland Events, to name only a few!



Shared lives Craft Group

Christmas Party fun at Elgin Town Hall.....

We have received some lovely feedback from everyone who managed along. Even although our band was delayed, we all had a lovely afternoon tea together, took lovely photos in the photo booth with the Christmas props and the second half of the party with the band proved great fun. Lots of laughter was heard and I noticed that there were a lot of very good dancers up on the dance floor.

Our new manager from next year – John Campbell and Pauline Knox, our current manager both came along at intervals throughout the party and Pauline kindly called out our golden ticket prize draw and read out our Christmas Quiz answers. We would like to send a big thank you to all who donated gifts for the prize draw and to our carers and office team for their donations of food, gifts and their support. It was great to see everyone pulling together to save the day until the band arrived! Thank you all so much.

Ben Hall from Shared Lives Plus visited us, and came along to the party too. He expressed his thanks to everyone. He was extremely impressed with both the

office team and how they all pull together to ensure the service runs smoothly, and the carers and service users and family, who made him so welcome. He hopes to visit us again in the future.



There is a special Christmas Party insert attached with this newsletter.

Using the feedback you all gave at the party, here is a word cloud in the shape of a Christmas Tree!



Thank you from The Grove Care Home

There were so many foodie gifts left over from the party that we knew you wouldn't want them to go to waste.

Diane took them to the Grove Care Home, who was very grateful for their unexpected Christmas Gifts. Allison, the manager wanted to make sure we passed on their huge thank you to you all. This pic is the Shared Lives Hamper delivered on your behalf to the Care Home.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

Diane, Natalie, Elaine and Ve xxx

Our current Shared Lives Team

