

## E-bulletin September 30<sup>th</sup> 2008

### Letter advertising drop-in (2).doc

Dear members,

1 Attached is information from Tanya Flint, Occupational Therapist, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, about the mental health drop-in. She has included information that influenced and guided the setting up and running of this group. The drop-in initially was piloted as a collaboration between herself at Lavender Day Service Working Age Mental Health, Nick Jenkins Art Inclusive Development Officer, Horsham District Council and Faye DeWaal Occupational Therapist Older People's Mental Health Service. The attendee's now have their own committee / constitution and are in the process of opening their own community group bank account.

2 Geoff Ettridge, Principal Consultant, has recently retired from a career in local government that spanned over 30 years in the south east – over half spent in the planning and commissioning of services from the independent private & voluntary care sector. In this role he was aware of the pressure placed on community and voluntary groups by public and finance bodies to produce plans, strategies, bids and tenders. Although the majority of the groups had very able people who could meet this challenge it was clear that they had not been able to access or make use of the vast amount of data and information that was available to them – assuming they had the time / knew where to look – on which to base their proposals.

To help address this problem he has created a website that will help 'planners' to:-

- Locate key government strategies for health & social care, supported housing and the third sector
- Find the plans, strategies and priorities of a local authority / PCT
- Obtain area specific demographic information
- Calculate the supply / demand scenario within a locality
- Discover relevant research / evaluation reports and
- Interpret this information into your plans.

The site, [www.yourcarematters.co.uk](http://www.yourcarematters.co.uk), really is a 'free lunch' so he wants to draw it to your attention. If you subsequently need assistance in making sense of the data or drawing it into a plan or perhaps a tender / bidding proposal, he would be pleased to discuss how he could best help. There would be a charge for any work undertaken but he and his associates understand the sector and its financial situation!

If you would like to know more about **Capacity Builders (Social Care)** please do not hesitate to contact him:

**Geoff Ettridge; BSc., MBA, CQSW, Dip. Social Admin., Dip. Applied Social Studies.**

**Principal Consultant**

**075 2516 1766**

[geoff.ettridge@yourcarematters.co.uk](mailto:geoff.ettridge@yourcarematters.co.uk)

Many thanks –  
Janet

Attachments:

Drop-in philosophy

Drop-in flyer

Letter advertising drop-in

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