

The Community Outreach Project

Background

Many vulnerable people, the elderly, the young, new parents and those with disabilities are not aware that they are able to seek help to improve their lives; or know how or where they could get help; or are too worried or fragile to make the first step.

This project supported by The Chalfont's, Chesham and Chiltern Villages and the Missenden's LAFs has provided the Chiltern CAB with the opportunity to extend outreach services and offer access to CAB advice at different centres in the area which do not have a regular outreach service but where people who need us are not able to access us for a number of reasons.

In each area, as a result of the funding we have been able to:

1. Deliver sessions with large groups of older people who are residents of Paradigm Housing offering:
 - Advice on how to stay warm in the winter
 - How to save money on fuel bills
 - How to save money on other utility bills
 - Information about Community Transport Schemes
 - Information about where to get help and advice
 - Signposting to CAB service and other agencies
2. Deliver advice subsequent to these sessions at CAB offices and on site at Paradigm Housing locations. This has involved specialist caseworker advice.
3. Meet with Health Professionals to reinforce the link between stress and health issues underpinned by our work in GP surgeries
4. Meet with neighbourhood police to provide signposting to CAB services
5. Provide additional capacity to meet the local demand generated.

Specifically the following work has been done in individual areas:

Chesham and Chiltern Villages

- 6 sessions including Job Seekers group, Job Centre Plus, Probus 50 plus forum and Rotary Christmas Lunch Club

- Attended Chesham Health Fare to raise awareness of CAB services
- Sessions in Sainsbury foyer to raise awareness of CAB services
- Attended sessions at all Chesham Children's Centres to work with young families, raising awareness of CAB service, offering direct assistance, providing food vouchers, providing budgeting advice , referring to caseworkers as needed

The Missenden's

- Attended session in Prestwood Children's Centre to work with young families, raising awareness of CAB service, offering direct assistance, providing food vouchers, providing budgeting advice , referring to caseworkers as needed
- Regular attendance of the Missenden Neighbourhood links group where we are able to raise awareness of our service to local community groups

The Chalfont's

- Attended sessions in Little Chalfont Children's Centre to work with young families, raising awareness of CAB service, offering direct assistance, providing food vouchers, providing budgeting advice , referring to caseworkers as needed

In all we have presented to and provided detailed advice to over 300 people during the course of the above sessions as well as carrying out important awareness raising work. As a result the Charity is further committed to extending community outreach work and is awaiting the outcome of funding applications to support it.

We would like to thank all Local Area Forums for the support in making our Community Outreach project successful