



the care forum

Case study: Intergenerational work Able Care and Little Hayes

How would you describe the project/activity/event that you have been a part of?

The steering group for the Greater Fishponds project felt there was a real need to make projects in the area intergenerational and benefit all. During the promotional phase of the project the project worker met with Little Hayes a local children's centre who were really keen to work with Care Homes.

Through linking with Alive the project worker was then able to identify Care Homes locally who had also expressed an interest in linking with preschool groups to hold stay and play sessions.

The project worker made introductions and Frenchay House and Little Hayes have organised a Christmas carol session with the view to set up regular visits from the preschool children to elderly residents living in the care home.

What was life like for you before becoming involved in the project? How did you feel?

Frenchay House report that generally residents do not get out and about as much as they used to, so if they can bring the community in to see them it really helps to keep them in touch with the outside world. The children's visits will break down barriers between different age groups and their differing abilities.

How did you find out about the project and why did you get involved?

"Initially via Making Pals/Alive Activities who signposted us to the BAB project who then made the link with the nursery. It is really helpful to have a co-ordinator, someone who can make the introductions and get the relevant groups in contact with each other".

What has changed for you as a result of this project?

Frenchay House say it is still early days with the project just beginning but they can see the benefits in other settings where similar work is taking place. They are confident the experience and benefits for the residents of Frenchay House will be similar.

Little Hayes are really excited to start this project as it will strengthen their offer making them a real community resource bring together all ages.

What is life like for you now? How do you feel?

Able care have found that links with children's groups that have become established in their other homes have really brightened the lives of residents involved. They light up with pleasure and enthusiasm when the children arrive.

What do you plan to do next?

Frenchay House hope to continue regular visits and build on the relationships between the children and residents and also staff and parents.

What would you say to others who are thinking of getting involved?

Frenchay House would definitely recommend this type of link. A picture speaks a thousand words. Some of the photos they have of residents reactions to the visits really do say it all.

Have you seen any changes in your community as a result of being involved in this activity?

Southern Links Children's Centre who visit the Able care home at Hengrove Lodge state 'the children have started to mean a lot to the residents, who remember more and more about them each time and even ask for them by name. "It's a real show of community spirit, and having these families visit Hengrove Lodge is vital to the work we do."

Do you have anything else to add?

From a BAB perspective it is great the appetite for this kind of activity in the area and there is another care home who the project worker has linked with another local nursery. The concept is also expanding with a group of women who are interested in starting a similar stay and play mixing older residents and parents/carers with young children in the community.

For more information or support with recording case studies, please contact Silvia Jimenez Cruz, BAB Communications Officer on silviajimenezcruz@ageukbristol.org.uk or by calling 0117 928 1539.