

## Morven Day Services celebrates silver anniversary

Thanks to Bill Greer, the doors to CrossReach Morven Day Services in Kilmarnock opened for the first time 25 years ago in 1992. Working in a role similar to that of our Heads of Service in the then Board of Social Responsibility, Bill had long seen the need for a place where people who had mental health problems could be supported in an environment free from judgement and stigma. His tireless commitment and passion culminated in securing funds to establish and run the service. We were therefore delighted that Bill's daughter and Counsellor for East Ayrshire Council, Maureen McKay, agreed to open the third CrossReach Morven Day Services Art Exhibition in October. Celebrating achievement, the art exhibition showcased arts and crafts created by the people supported by Morven. The contributors wanted to demonstrate that even when impacted with a mental health issue people can be productive and creative. They organised and ran the event with limited support from the staff team, further demonstrating something of the achievements possible when individuals know they are valued for the people they are - and not seen through stigmatising and misrepresenting labels. Allan Marshall, Deputy Manager at Morven said: "This is our 25<sup>th</sup> year of service in East Ayrshire and we are proud to continue to provide a service which has supported so many people over the years." Councillor McKay commented: "The exceptional work displayed here confirms my father's vision that if people are given the opportunity to be creative it will improve their mental health."



## Social Care Mission Officer

October was a busy month with new resources added to the Social Care Forum, the meeting of the Dementia Network in Aberdeen and the launch of the Children & Families Network in Glasgow! If you're looking for the latest reports and resources to help you with some of the services you're providing within your communities, do visit the "Inform" section of the Social Care Forum: [www.socialcareforum.scot](http://www.socialcareforum.scot) – if you can't find what you're looking for, use the 'Contact Us' page to let us know and we'll try our best to help!

The Dementia Network met earlier in the month in Aberdeen and heard about the great work happening with Living Well Cafes. The group also heard from Pamela MacKay, Dementia Development Co-ordinator who spoke about how dementia affects the individual and the associated stigma often experienced following a diagnosis.



The Children & Families Network met at the end of the month in Glasgow and heard about the work of Whiteinch Transformation, part of Whiteinch Parish Church. The group then spent some time looking at the 'Getting It Right For Every Child' (GIRFEC) approach. We also met our new wellbeing Octopus – a tool developed by Tanya Anderson, GIRFEC Development Advisor for CrossReach. The group had some fun using it to help them reflect on what the GIRFEC wellbeing indicators might mean for the children they support in their church role. The next meetings of both networks are due to take place in January 2018 – if you'd like to be involved, please e-mail me direct: [liann.weir@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:liann.weir@crossreach.org.uk)

## Morlich House is 'Care Home Service of the Year' finalist



Morlich House in Edinburgh has been named as one of the three finalists in the 'Care Home Service of the Year' category in the Scottish Care National Care

Home Awards. Morlich, which has 23 female residents, has constructed a 1950s street with a red telephone box and an authentic Sweetie Shop selling popular confectionary from the era. Residents can also spend time in a re-creation of a 1950s living room with an authentic bakelite radio and wood surround television. The Moderator of the General Assembly Rt. Rev. Dr. Derek Browning visited the home in Morningside during CrossReach Week in September. Manager Glen Brady says that Morlich is surprised but delighted to have been shortlisted for the award. The winners will be announced at a ceremony in the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow on 17<sup>th</sup> November.



## The 'WOW' factor at Whinnieknowe



We often hear about the wow factor, but at Whinnieknowe Care Home in Nairn 'WOW' stands for 'Wee Ones at Whinnieknowe'. The concept of 'non-familial intergenerational interactions' is centred around the simple idea that old and young can bring new energy, knowledge and enthusiasm to each others' lives. In the last 20 years this concept has been increasingly picked up, particularly in America where more and more shared care facilities are being opened. This was seen on the recent Channel 4 documentary 'Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds'. Aware of the shared care practice in the USA, Sarah

Butters, Activities Co-ordinator at Whinnieknowe, had the idea of inviting pre-school children into the home to spend time playing with the residents. So she tentatively reached out via a community Facebook page to see if parents would be interested in letting their children come along for playdates. Having an existing partnership with a local family centre, Junior World (Care and Learning Alliance Child Care), Whinnieknowe manager Lynda Wilson made an approach to Centre manager Jayne Macintosh who said she would be delighted to take this initiative forward. Jayne contacted the parents of the 150 children registered at the Family Centre and received 70 consented responses. Sarah then approached the residents at Whinnieknowe to ask them if they would be interested. She showed them the Channel 4 documentary and six residents said they wanted to sign up. In addition, Sarah and Jayne undertook a specialist Intergenerational Training Course for Trainers and Practitioners and over the autumn months the practicalities of Health and Safety, policies, insurances and safeguarding were put in place. Then on 31st October, six little visitors made an enormous impact on their new friends and for over an hour they did craft activities together. Chatting about the materials they were using and instructing each other on how to make the best pictures, it seemed that no sooner had they arrived then it was time to go. Although in its infancy, this pilot playdate scheme is already hugely popular and everyone is looking forward to future meetings of WOW.

## Pledging support for CrossReach

We were both surprised and encouraged by an approach made by the Presbytery of Lewis to ask if they could become a 'Presbytery Friend of CrossReach'. Following discussions around what this would mean for the members of the churches in the Presbytery and also what it could mean for CrossReach, Rev. Dr. Ben Johnstone, Moderator of the Presbytery of Lewis and Calum Murray, CrossReach's Director of Adult Care Services, met in Stornoway to formalise plans. Rev. Johnstone said: "The Presbytery of Lewis is delighted to pledge to become a Presbytery Friend of CrossReach. This pledge encourages all of our congregations to support – prayerfully and through fundraising – the wonderful work done, in the name of Jesus, by CrossReach nationally, including the exceptional services provided by the Lewis Street and Dochas projects here on the Isle of Lewis." Accepting the pledge on behalf of CrossReach Calum Murray commented: "We are equally delighted to receive this warm endorsement of our work by the Presbytery of Lewis and look forward to working together in partnership with the congregations here in furtherance of our mission to support, in Christ's name, those who find themselves in vulnerable circumstances right across Scotland."



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