

MLA EAST OF ENGLAND LEARNING NETWORK PROJECT

Background Information

Service name	Essex Record Office, Essex County Council
Description of activity / project	Essex Reminiscence Network
Timescale (or ongoing)	Ongoing
Main audience / user focus	Older people in care and their carers
Partners	Essex Record Office, museums in Essex, Older Peoples Services
Project / programme objectives	Provide network of themed loan boxes containing memory triggers that are available for carers to borrow from museums throughout Essex. Training of carers in the use of boxes and in reminiscence therapy.
GLO and GSO piloting objectives	Establish the strategic importance and value of the Network. Demonstrate through measurable, quantifiable outcomes the social capital created by the Network and its links with Local Area Agreement priorities.
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1. **What** were the key outcome(s) measured
 - Safer and stronger communities - encouraging familial ties and relationships
 - Health and wellbeing: supporting care and recovery

2. **How** you measured the extent to which the outcome / outcomes were met (Include any of the following developed for your project: questionnaires; interview or focus group guides; observation schedules)

Through questionnaire (for all partners/users – attached) and observation (older people)

3. **Who** you collected evidence from
 - Participating museums,
 - Carers
 - Older people in care.

4. **Who** collected the evidence

Museum Officer responsible for reminiscence boxes

5. **How** you analysed the evidence

The questions were developed to provide data relating to the key outcomes. The resulting data was analysed with respect to these and other Local Area Agreement priorities, by tabulating positive and negative responses to closed questions and coding answers to open questions.

6. **How** you presented the findings
(Include a summary of the findings)

- By table summarising the responses. Giving percentage responses for closed answers and tick boxes for LAA priority areas.
- Quotes were collected as supporting evidence. For example, the results of the questions directed at carers

Responses from carers	Yes	No
Personally gain from being involved in the Network	100%	0%
Help you build a better relationship with the older person in care	100%	0%
Training given more confidence to undertake reminiscence work	100%	0%
LAA Priorities indicated		
SSC encouraging familial ties and relationships	√√	
SSC improving group and inter group dialogue and understanding	√	
HW supporting care and recovery	√√	
HW supporting older people to live independent lives	√	

SSC = Stronger & Safer Communities
HW = Health & Wellbeing

7. **How** you used, or plan to use, the findings
(For example to inform service development or for advocacy)

As advocacy to demonstrate value and importance of reminiscence to strategic partners and funding bodies

8. Comments on the piloting process
(Including what you learned, what went well and any challenges or problems)

Due to the nature of the Network getting responses to questionnaires was a lengthy process. Working with partners to develop questionnaire and to include their priorities was worthwhile.

9. Finally, give details of anything that surprised you about the piloting process.

That there were more social outcomes from the project than initially realised.

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ESSEX REMINISCENCE NETWORK

Outcomes

Safer and stronger communities – encouraging familial ties and relationships
Health and wellbeing – supporting care and recovery

Partners

What benefits does your organisation gain from being involved in the Network?

How does the Network benefit you personally?

Carers

What do you gain from being involved in the Network?

Does the Network help you build a better relationship with the older person in care?

Has training given you more confidence to undertake reminiscence therapy?

Older people

Did you notice any positive change in the behaviour of the older person (observation by carer)?

Did you enjoy the reminiscence session?