Queensferry Care in the Community (The Haven) Report for Queensferry and District Council meeting meeting 24th March 2014

The Social Development Committee met on 13/03/14 and decided that a new 5 year plan was needed. This is in order to set new strategic aims for the direction of the committee. Currently the remit is to discuss and implement actions related to staffing, funding, the fabric of the building and developments of the service.

Building work A need was identified for more space to hold group activities so that different needs can be catered for on the same day. Groups and activities are currently held in a large sitting room, where lunch is also served. A plan was drawn up to make better use of the existing facilities and over a week, the building work required has been carried out. The office used by 3 members of staff was converted into an activity room. The 3 staff have been given 2 rooms, 2 of them in what was previously a quiet room and 1 in an ex-laundry room. In addition, the foyer has been altered for wheelchair users wishing to speak to the receptionist; sliding cupboards have been fitted in both the current day room and the new room for equipment. Alterations have also been made in the toilet/bathroom area and the Managers' office. Outings for clients were arranged so that the building work could be completed timeously.

Extra day. There is always a waiting list for all 3 days at the Haven, (the other 2 days being at the Kirkliston Community Centre). The list for Tuesday, which is open to people with physical difficulties and also people suffering from isolation and depression, is always much longer. The managers have been working with the relevant Council Committees and the Health Board to look at how an extra day on a Wednesday could be funded.

Memory Clinic This is a new venture, which had it's inaugural meeting on Thursday 13th March. Carers attended with their relatives(attenders) and initially were together enjoying a cup of tea and refreshments. A member of Alzheimer's Scotland was present, to give carers information about services available etc and discuss issues, arising from looking after their person. Relatives were engaged in social activities during this time.

Fundraising Because the grants given to run the facility by Edinburgh Health Board and Edinburgh Social Work Department have remained the same, it is necessary to fund raise. The next big venture is the Forth Rail bridge Abseil. At least one member of QCCC Committee is participating, along with friends of the Haven.