

BMCN Chairman's Annual Report to 31/12/2020

Brentor & Moor Compassionate Neighbours' *raison d'être* is to provide support to individuals in our local communities who are suffering from a *life-limiting illness and/or are approaching the end of life*. The scheme has been operational since early June 2017, and we have been able to offer support to over 70 individuals in that time.

BMCN's catchment area corresponds with that covered by the local surgeries, and also that covered by the St Luke's Hospice Community Team. This area centres on Tavistock, and stretches down to Bere Ferrers in the south, along the Cornwall border to the west, as far as Lifton/Lewdown to the north, and includes Princetown and Yelverton to the east.

As with so many organisations, BMCN's operations during 2020 were severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the lockdowns and ongoing restrictions, fewer referrals were received, and many physical visits by volunteers were necessarily replaced by telephone support and the running of errands (collecting shopping/prescriptions etc).

At the end of 2019, BMCN joined the "Time4You" pilot scheme run by Devon Carers on behalf of Devon County Council. This proved a successful project, with six clients receiving a total of over 100 hours of support from BMCN volunteers during the year. The scheme is due to finish in March 2021.

During 2020, BMCN had 13 individuals referred (7 male, 6 female). Of these, 6 had passed away by the end of the year. We continued to support 11 individuals from previous years- seven of which had passed away by year end. Geographical distribution of referrals was more rural than in previous years, with half coming from outlying villages, and the other half from Tavistock/Yelverton. St Luke's Hospice Community Team made 8 referrals, the remainder coming from Livewell SW, Devon Carers, the Admiral Nurse, and the recently established Tavistock Health & Wellbeing Co-ordinators Team.

The BMCN committee lost one member in 2020 due to relocation; a new seventh member has been elected and is due to be welcomed at the next meeting in February. Volunteer numbers remained fairly stable, and we finished the year with 18. We remain indebted to our part-time (paid) administrator, who continues to make a most valuable contribution- on an *ad hoc* basis- to the work of the Care Co-ordinator.

Regarding volunteer training, a major re-organisation of the way BMCN's training is delivered is being undertaken by the Head of Training, supported by two other committee members. This endeavour will take some months to come to fruition, but will transform the way our training programme is delivered. We owe a debt of thanks to all those who continue to give their valuable time and expertise to this project.

In summary, 2020 has been a difficult year operationally, although we have managed to maintain a reasonable level of service despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic. We continue to forge stronger links with the various agencies with whom we work. BMCN ends the year on a sound financial footing, with well-controlled operational overheads and adequate reserves going forward. We all look forward to gradually resuming our normal activities as the pandemic is- we hope- steadily brought under control in the coming months.

BMCN's plan for 2021 is as follows:

- 1. To continue working closely with St Luke's Hospice**
- 2. To continue to build stronger links with local health and social care agencies**
- 3. To maintain volunteer numbers at or about the current level**
- 4. To ensure the financial security of BMCN for the future**

End