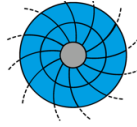




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ImpACT GROUP

OUR SPECIAL FRIENDS & ANIMAL COMPANIONSHIP SUPPORT

Addendum to Final Report: Appendices 5 and 6

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Appendix 5: Animal Companionship Support

Animal Companionship Support: the concept: enablers, attributes and outcomes		
Enablers (KM distilled from content)	Attributes	Outcomes
<p>➤ Optimising human – animal bond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Right pet for owner ✓ Right home circumstances for the pet ✓ Interest in developing human-animal bond when no access to animals ✓ Source of pets to create new human-animal bond <p>➤ Owner capabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Owners can act on their responsibility ✓ Owner able to physically care for 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A human – animal bond brings joy and wellbeing 2. Another heartbeat in the home-mutual benefit – someone to talk to unconditionally but also responsibility to care for animal 3. Support to those who are vulnerable through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintaining existing relationships with animals • providing bespoke animal assisted interventions (<i>derived from purpose</i>) 	<p>A sense of joy and purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of purpose and feeling of fulfilment (T1, 17, 28) (T3, 26, 43) • Feeling of joy, and reduced negative emotions (T1, 25) • Smiling happy faces of clients with their pets (T3, 16, 63) • Looks forward to seeing the animal each week (T3, 17) <p>Increased wellbeing and reduced loneliness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced sense of loneliness (T3, 33) • Improved self-reported wellbeing (T3, 1,20, 29,30, 32) • Say they feel healthier, happier and more interested in life (T3, 8, 19, 38, 55) • Positive family feedback (T3 ,2, 21) • Family notice positive difference in wellbeing (T3,12) <p>Animal welfare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved communication with animal and others (T3,24) • Happy animals and improved wellbeing (T1, 20) (T3, 40) • Improved animal welfare (T3, 3) • Less animal obesity (T3, 50) <p>Improved health and welfare (T3, 7, 65)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person is increasingly physically able due to being able to go for a walk with the pet (T3, 12) • Observed improvements in self-care (T3, 23) • Reduced stress (T3, 53) • Better sleep (T3 ,25) • Improved appetite and weight gain (T3, 25, 52) • Lower measures of loneliness (T1,27) (T3, 48)

<p>their animal independently</p> <p>➤ Access to support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Formal and Informal support with animal care when unable to provide it themselves ✓ Training, support and information 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowered levels of obesity (T3,50) • Improved welfare (T3, 9) • keeping people in their own homes rather than having to move into sheltered accommodation/hospitals/care homes (<i>derived from purpose</i>) <p>Less need for medical/public service support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced number of GP Visits (T3,22, 47) • Clients start to engage more with social workers, MH workers, GPs (T3, 39) • Shorter stay in hospital (T3, 46) • Lower return visits to hospital, prison, MHUs (T3, 51) • Less contact with supporting agencies (T3, 28) • They no longer require our services (T3, 14) <p>Improved symptom control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less complaints about pain/reduction in pain medication (T3, 54) • Greater adherence to medication (T3, 49) <p>More socially active, connecting with community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More socially active and willing to join in activities with other people (T3, 5, 56, 62) • Connecting with others in the community and links to the outside world (T3, 15, 34)
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APPENDIX 6: Our Special Friends Implementation and Impact Framework with detail

Our Special Friends: Implementation and Impact Framework – animal companionship support services for impact on individuals, community and society		
(Blue font reflects outcomes of the charity & are in addition to those for animal companionship)		
Enablers	Activities/interventions	Outcomes/Impact
<p>ORGANISATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clarity of Purpose and messaging: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear messaging and statement of purpose (T2, 23) • Clear description of aims, services and how OSF works (Chat 1, 15) • Using power of social media to showcase and to seek support (Chat 1, 20) • Enable effective signposting (T2, 17) • Awareness that animal interaction is real, and support is available (T2, 12) ➤ Animal centric staff, and network of volunteers & ambassadors with support to grow skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal centric carers (Chat 1, 22) • Enough volunteers, staff and animals to provide ongoing support and to enable community interaction (T2, 2,7, 16) • Shared network of volunteer resources with the right skills (Chat 1,5, 10, 18, 21) (T2, 15) • a structure of personnel to support our growth (Chat 1, 30) • local leads with easy access to our database (Chat 1, 31) • Ambassador's to represent Our Special Friends in the community to ultimately help us to raise funds but also to create awareness (Chat 1 17) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sustaining/reuniting existing human-animal bond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk and talk with clients (Chat 2, 20) • Walking people's dogs when they are struggling (Chat 2, 1) • Reuniting people with their pets • Providing advice, arranging veterinary care, persuading housing providers to permit pets (T1, 18) ➤ Initiating new animal bond – permanent/intermittent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic assessment and history taking at the start of the relationship (Chat 2,2) • Breaking down barriers preventing people benefiting from AC • Matching people with the right pet for the lifestyle (Chat 2, 21, 28) • Securing a relationship with an animal (Chat 2, 24) 	<p>Individual person outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A sense of joy and purpose ✓ Increased wellbeing and reduced loneliness ✓ Improved healthy living and welfare ✓ Less need for medical/public service support ✓ Improved symptom control <p>Support from Charity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Feel supported with decision making and resolving crisis ✓ Pet owners have peace of mind that their pet will be okay after they pass away (T3, 64) ✓ The number of people that feel supported to make difficult decisions e.g. euthanasia, relinquishment (T3, 59) <p>Individual Animal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Animal welfare

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Accessible Referral Mechanism, assessment process and advice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy referral process (Chat 1, 3) • People ask for the service (Chat 1, 28) • Referral and holistic assessment from NHS and other Agencies/charities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPs, care homes and all care homes support clear and detailed assessments at referral (T2 ,14 • Introduction of care plans for people and their companion animals at times when people need support or are transitioning to other accommodation (T2, 18) • Local points of contact for informal help and advice Church, clubs (Chat 1, 24) • Accessible and affordable advice on caring for and training pets (T2, 1) • Legal recognition that animal companions are important and have representation (Chat 1, 27) (T2, 19) ➤ IT Resources to support purpose i.e. tools, information etc for staff, volunteers and champions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools to care for the animal (T1,31) • Apps for volunteers (T2,23) • Review of IT infrastructure and staff training (T2,23) ➤ Strategy for raising public awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good marketing and PR to raise profile (Chat 1, 26) (T1, 30, 32) (T2, 4 ,9) • Celebrity endorsement (Chat 1, 13) ➤ Strategy for contributing to the evidence base <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and evidence base: • Better data, recognised research and Case studies sharing impact (Chat 1, 9, 11) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting with animals for people unable to own their own pets (Chat 2,3, 8,14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Caretaking/safeguarding the human and/or the animal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support that safeguards human and animal welfare when circumstances change (Chat 2, 26) • Supporting people to make difficult decisions • Fostering to reunite in times of crisis (Chat 2, 4,5, 8, 27) • Animal Rehoming pets and finding new animal companions (Chat 2, 15,23,27) ➤ Providing Training, support and information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training, support and information (Chat 2, 28) • Teaching children about life lessons, loss, love, relationships, empathy (T1, 22) ➤ Helping vulnerable people to cope and recover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling people to take exercise (Chat 2, 9,10, 13, 16, 18, ,30,31) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Able to part and stop the animal companionship that is not mutually beneficial (T3, 67) <p>Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff and the core team being happy in their roles (T3, 68) ✓ Volunteers happy in their role (T3, 69) <p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Awareness in the community sectors – GPs, carers, home workers (T2,21) ✓ External health and social welfare partners give feedback to say the client has improved in their issue (T3, 66) ✓ Testimonials (T3 44, 55) ✓ Keeping homes warmer in the winter (T3, 61) <p>Contributing to the evidence base</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Publications about the impact in a range of journals (Chat 1, 8) <p>Fundraising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ They leave a legacy or donation (T3,16, 45)
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<p>➤ Strategy for Fundraising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding opportunities and income streams (Chat 1,2, 6, 10) (T1, 30, 32) (T2, 8,9) <p>Future proofing through philanthropy (Chat 1, 23) (T2, 20)</p> <p>SYSTEM/COMMUNITY/SOCIETY:</p> <p>➤ Community support:</p> <p>Good community support - volunteers, members of the health and social care professions, including veterinarians, vet nurses, journalists & politicians, other charities that support vulnerable people & animals (chat 1, 25)</p> <p>➤ Network of supportive organisations and agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehoming centres, vets, social care, voluntary groups (Chat 1,7) • Supply of companionable dogs (Chat 1, 1) • Umbrella working with other charities (T2, 15) • Linked to the NHS and other health agencies working in MD Teams as part of the equation (Chat 1, 16) • Good communication with other agencies (Chat 1, 14) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work as part of the community care teams offering a beneficial alternative to medication (T1, 24) • Social prescribing to recognise the benefits of animal companionship (T2, 11, 22) • Walk and talk with clients (Chat 2, 20) • Assisted walking (Chat 2, 29) <p>➤ Raising Community and Public Awareness</p> <p>➤ Contributing to the evidence base about impact</p> <p>➤ Fundraising</p>	<p>Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Used by other agencies including OSF in their support portfolio (T3, 59) ✓ Be able to influence others in wider system (Chat 1, 4) ✓ regional hubs across the country with administration support and links to volunteers and agencies (such as mental health trusts, hospices and GP surgeries (Chat 1, 19) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Understanding the need for and benefit of animal companionship at a national government level (Chat 1, 12)
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