

C&SW AGM- Chairman's report

Once again, I am pleased to be able to report on a busy and successful year.

We continue to have aspirations as to what we can provide for our members and achieve on their behalf. I think it is essential that we continue to think that way. Continuous improvement is the alternative to becoming irrelevant.

Our CEO David managed some of the year from the sunny climes of Gibraltar but was soon back with us managing from the front. I cannot steal too much of his thunder but we managed to put on a tremendous and popular conference and to also maintain the success of our Care Awards event attracting many nominations and continuing to host over 400 guests to make the event one of the biggest and best.

David moving away, whilst temporary, caused a lot of reassessing. All for the good. We now have an ongoing backroom team of David, Angela Roberts, Barbara Harris and Mik Alban, who are working together bringing their individual skills to work as a true team.

As ever the Board and our managing team have worked to support the interests of the members. We have been in dialogue with our commissioners about the Dom Care fiasco, the Dynamic Purchasing System roll out, and many other things. We do what we can to get in early and avoid 'I told you so' but.....!

We continue to represent our area in the Care Association Alliance and get our voice heard at a national level. That continues to grow and those of us in the smaller independent sector now have a voice listened to by Government and industry leaders.

This year Marilyn Clarke who has been our secretary for so many years, many of you will know her from the old ARCHA days, finally takes a step back and hands over to Sam Hawker. Marilyn has worked tirelessly for a sector that she cares for with a passion. We hope to be able to call upon her for some words of wisdom but her ability to see the big picture from the small providers perspective will be sorely missed. We hope that we can carry on to the standard Marilyn has set.

We have been involved in so many things. As our industry grows larger and more complex we all have to be up to the mark. As providers, we have to navigate through the increasing minefield and maze of rules, regulations and, requirements. We strive to enable our members to get through that safely and well placed to provide the excellent standards of care that our service users can, and should, expect.

We have our own challenges for the next year. Not least being our finances. Our output has increased significantly faster than our input. We have plans to tackle that and will keep everyone informed of our progress as we go along.

I think C&SW has done a sterling job on behalf of its members and I would like to make public my thanks to the Board and David and his team for their much-appreciated efforts.

Len Collacott

Chairman C&SW