

South West Wiltshire Health & Wellbeing Meeting

6th June 2022, 11.00am

1. **Present:** Cllr Nick Errington (cllr lead), Karen Linaker (Wiltshire Council Community Engagement Manager), Ann-Marie Dean (Tisbury Memory Group), Revd Jonathan Plows (Rector Lower Wylde & Till Valleys), Anne Ward Ongley (Carer representative), Katey Bell (Centre for Sustainable Energy), Jane Mason (Mere Day Centre), Sharon McGookin (Tisbury GP Carers Lead), Diane James (Carer Support Wiltshire)

2. **Ukraine Support**

The group discussed a brief update on the current situation, including how hosts and volunteers were offering strong support to Ukraine guests in the county. Anne Marie referred to a new web resource she and her partner had built to help with communications: - [Community | Your-ukraine](#). Karen referred to the [Wiltshire Together](#) website which also offered a form of networking support. We also discussed how common themes of need were emerging including transport and volunteer befriending.

The Salisbury Ukraine Hub, starting back in April, was developing into a strong place of support for hosts and guests across South West Wilts, Salisbury and Southern Wiltshire, offering weekly drop ins, ongoing volunteer help, employment advice, English and Ukraine education, a planned summer school, and a base for services and organisations to meet and offer advice.

3. **Cost of Living**

The group discussed a range of issues relevant to this theme, which the area board was looking to prioritise over the coming months, including:

- (a) The services and funding support from Warm & Safe Wiltshire, run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy with Wiltshire Public Health service:
 - (i) Katey Bell katey.bell@cse.org.uk – would welcome hearing from members of this group who work with residents in need of support from the Warm & Safe Wiltshire scheme [Surviving Winter Grant, £300 grant, help, grant, winter \(warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk\)](#).
 - (ii) Further updates from Katey (attached)
- (b) The sense from the group was that there is a real need amongst residents for support in the current high cost of living situation, with many presenting with a sense of greater desperation than witnessed before

- (c) In South West Wiltshire we are also aware of associated need for a certain section of private renters whose homes do not meet the decent home standard, where e.g. properties are not properly insulated, are damp, and living conditions are below the temperatures required
- (d) Need is also being monitored and evident in Mere in particular, but also in other parishes, where individuals and families are requiring regular foodbank assistance
- (e) Local representatives get a sense also that there is more hidden deprivation, especially on the bigger residential estates, but that residents are reticent to speak up and request help, meaning that finding and responding to need is resource intensive, and yet we are all currently working in an environment where resources have gone – not just in terms of funding, but also in terms of human resources (both volunteer and paid)
- (f) The community had yet to recover from covid in terms of hubs of info, i.e. GP surgeries – where in the past these places had served an important purpose of displaying/disseminating information about various forms of support for whatever need
- (g) We discussed the role of the social prescriber / community connector / good neighbour and there seemed a need to clarify what the offer amongst these roles were in South West Wiltshire

4. Dementia Support

Karen referred to the small group of volunteers and service representatives that had begun to meet informally to consider dementia support, not just for villages in South West Wiltshire but across the Salisbury and Southern Community Areas. The group was looking to support a number of events over the coming months, including the Nadder Centre Silent Disco. Key issues that remain a barrier to strengthening support for people with dementia: lack of transport, lack of respite, lack of substantial funding, unrealistic expectation placed on volunteers

5. Carer Support

Diana and Sharon offered their perspectives that there is a shortage of services and support in South West Wiltshire, which when conflated with other reductions for day centre services, suggested that many will not get the help they need. Lack of respite options was certainly an issue of concern.

Anne suggested that on the next meeting agenda the group consider the Wiltshire Joint Carers Strategy review papers and influence the refresh of this strategy.

6. Grants

General support expressed for the 3 'older people and vulnerable adults' grant requests, although some caution expressed about the Salisbury based projects that they ensure proper outreach to South West Wiltshire villages. Also some concern about the high amount being requested by La Folia which will leave a small amount remaining in the budget for the rest of the year

7. Date of next meeting 5th Sept, 11am online

Addendum

Warm and Safe Wiltshire notes from Katey Bell

The information on our website about the £300 grants scheme will be updated soon, this is the page: <https://www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk/surviving-winter> and here's a summary of the new scheme which started last week:

Energy Support Grant

£300 OR £100 if they received £200 from the Surviving Winter Fund during winter 2021.

Eligibility Criteria:

- i) Lives in Wiltshire
- ii) Aged 64 or over
- iii) Living on benefits **OR** living in fuel poverty (i.e. struggling to afford the cost of heating)

Free heating upgrades: As I mentioned we also have funding for heating system upgrades for individuals with an income of less than £25k or couples with an income of less than £32k. Details of which measures are covered can be found in the yellow box on this page:

<https://www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk/funding>

We also have other funding available for people in different circumstances so it's always worth someone getting in touch to find out what's available for someone's individual circumstances. example, someone with income higher than £25k but who receives Carers Allowance or a disability benefit may still be eligible for funding.

Lendology: For people whose income or savings are way above the £25/£32k mark, or who have high savings which they don't want to deplete in case they need it in future: to confirm - Lendology do operate in Wiltshire. <https://www.lendology.org.uk/partner/view/wiltshire-council/> It's a really amazing scheme which allows people to make home improvements without necessarily having to repay a loan on a monthly basis.