

WARMINSTER - OP CHAMPION REPORT October 2018

The **vision** is a community where older people live well as healthy, active participants - valued and respected for the role they play. The **purpose** of the role is to work with service providers to continuously evolve their services in support of the vision. The **strategy** is to review existing services identifying gaps and opportunities in partnership with existing support agencies such as Age UK. The goals for 2018 are:

1. Create database of known services.
2. Talk to participants and providers about opportunities to broaden the appeal, improve the offering and identify any gaps.
3. Work with existing support agencies and service providers to establish action plans for development.

Talking to participants and providers

I attended the **Health, Wellbeing and Social Care Forum**, chaired by Ann Merrills. It is a lively group with a wide range of attendees, including at this one, representatives from Bath RUH who talked about the site's ongoing development. This sparked a discussion about transport, a recurring theme in older people's concerns.

I attended a meeting of the **Warminster and District Stroke Association**: a charity that has been running for 15 years. I was struck by the enthusiasm of the volunteers operating it - their desire to provide a service that enhances the life of the members is palpable.

While the organisers were happy with the group's success, when pressed about how things could be improved the answer was not unexpected:

- Keeping the group in the forefront of doctor's minds when prescribing non-medical interventions to patients.
- Funds to provide their service. While the members pay annual subscriptions and weekly attendance fees, the costs of things such as room hire and suitable transport for outings puts pressure on budgets.

I attended a community day organised by **National Citizen Service (NCS)**. It had few attendees and some of the activities were a little clichéd... but this didn't dampen the obvious enthusiasm of the group.

I enjoyed coffee and cake at the **Codford Community Café**. This has two discreet client sets - early morning Mum's on the school run and later older people. A simple, but effective idea set up by the local community. Feedback here was no different from other groups - raising awareness and dealing with costs.

Database management

I have updated the **activities database**. No significant changes, mostly new contact details.

Talking to support agencies and other service providers

I met with Louise Clapton, Community Partnership Coordinator for Dorothy House (DH). Louise outlined the new DH strategic plan which is focused on 'enabling communities' and includes goals common to those of the H&W Management Group, such as reducing isolation. She has invited the group to a tour of the DH Hospice along with a more in-depth look at the strategy so that we may identify opportunities for collaboration. The Chief Executive, John Davies will be visiting Warminster on 22 October as part of his promotional tour of the area covered by DH.

Observations

1. Visiting existing groups is enjoyable but we need to get to the people who don't, won't or can't engage in activities that could make a real difference to their longer term health and wellbeing.
2. We need a more coordinated approach to working with existing service providers. A first step towards this is engaging with a broader range of providers at the H&W Management Group.
3. Cross-generational activities like the NCS event need to be promoted and encouraged. The Stroke Association, for example, works with local schools so some research on other activities is required.