

The Warminster and District Health Wellbeing and Social Care Forum is an informal group of around 50 individuals representing some 35 health bodies, charities and local interests active in the BA12 area. Its main benefit is as a network that shares updates and information, as well as encouraging “joining-up” and collaborative working between its members, for the benefit of the public. The Forum is chaired by Stephanie Stevens while David Reeves is the Secretary.

### **Update on activities**

The last Forum meeting was on 7 June and featured a presentation from Cornerstone, short verbal updates from those attending and an initial discussion and invitation to Forum members to form a Steering Group. As with many similar Groups, Covid led us to **review how deliver our objectives as an enabler**. This smaller Group met on 26 July and their proposals on taking forward the Forum will be considered at the next Forum meeting on 20 September.

One of the recommendations of the Steering Group was to **review our membership to ensure that we are adequately representing the BA12 population**. Happily, our approaches to current Forum members have received a unanimously positive response to date, but we recognise that there are “gaps” such as children and families and we are also keen to ensure that the villages are well represented. Connections to the military were strengthened through our welcome involvement with the Army Health Fair in July.

Stephanie and David met with Stacie Allensby and Tony Jackson in August to explain the role of the Forum and to ensure that the **Forum’s activities are congruent with – and contribute to – the aims and objectives of the Town Council and the Area Board**. At the special meeting of the Area Board on 23 August, the importance of health and wellbeing was recognised and it became clear that health and wellbeing impacts across other objectives. We will be taking that input into our future strategy and will identify what might be possible in due course.

On events, we are **supporting the Ageing Well event** on 14 September being run by Forum member and Social Prescriber, Marion Barton at the Civic Centre. David Reeves was interviewed on **WCR’s Community Chest** in early July, talking on Health and Wellbeing. Work on the twice postponed **Health and Wellbeing Fair is underway and a date of Saturday 22 April 20203** has been agreed. Already 15 or the original exhibitors have re-affirmed their desire to attend – an encouraging response – and we aim, as far as possible, to re-use the material intended for the cancelled 2020 Fair.

David Reeves

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