

Carers Champion up-date. 09.22.

Due to the restructuring activity in Wilts Council Engagement and Partnerships team, and the restructuring of the Community Engagement Managers teams in Carer Support Wiltshire it has not been feasible to commit time to the role. However, during the period, mainly through the CSW Melksham Carers Café events obtained interim feedback from carers on the main issues that are of concern to them (see survey document). Nothing in the initial survey will be of a surprise, and supports the feedback concerns expressed by other organisations, and items in the local press. I have asked CSW if they could use their database to circulate the survey questionnaire more widely to get more comprehensive feedback, but have had no response to-date.

I have attended remotely several meetings with other CC's, hosted by Georgia Tanner WC Carers Lead. Minutes of these meetings are available from Georgia. Feedback from other CC's in the County reflect the concerns expressed in my initial survey.

Prior to an announcement from Government regarding the potential increase in energy costs, many carers have great concerns about the additional energy costs they have to cover, especially the use of specialist equipment required by the person they are caring for, this includes items that are 'plugged in' 24/7 and other non-domestic items requiring additional use of energy. Similarly the increasing cost of food has required carers, many of whom are on fixed incomes with no benefits, to consider using foodbanks for the first time.

Earlier this month I attended a meeting of the Age Friendly Group managed by Mary Curran to explain my role. This group has also completed a survey on Age Friendly issues. There are direct comparisons between this survey, and my initial Carers survey. At the meeting it was proposed to set up a steering Group to produce an action plan for the most pressing issues. I volunteered (as an older person) to be part of this steering group, which would also help me to have an input in my CC role. The subsequent meeting to set up the action plan was cancelled and no future meeting date has been arranged.

Young Carers Event. I have not been up-dated on this initiative since the last Are Board Meeting. As I do not have DBS enhanced clearance from Wilts Council, it would be difficult for me to have any hands on involvement if required.

I have met with Richard Rogers, Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager, Wiltshire Council (Devizes, Melksham, Pewsey) who has explained the change in support for the CC role.