

MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

MARLBOROUGH HEALTH AND WELLBEING GROUP

PROGRESS REPORT AND UPDATE 1st OCTOBER 2024

1. Introduction

The following report provides an update on the recent progress of the Health and Wellbeing Group with the main achievement being the inaugural Open Day event on 6th July 2024 which took place during the Wiltshire Council's month long focus on health.

2. Health and Wellbeing Group

The next meeting of the Group is due to take place on 3rd October 2024.

The Group has continued to grow with new members joining following the December 2023 event and the July 2024 Open Day. The Group comprises a total of 25 members from a wide range of local organisations with a focus on health and wellbeing.

3. Health & Wellbeing Open Day in St Peters' Church, 6th July 2024

3a) Aims The Day provided an opportunity for a wide range of local health and care organisations; both statutory and non-statutory and other community groups to share information about their services and the support and facilities which are available for people in the local area. Members of the public were invited to ask questions and to take away written information. Importantly too Day also enabled networking and discussion between the participating organisation and generally to raise awareness about health and wellbeing.

3b) Location. Following the unpredictable wet and windy weather that was experienced earlier in 2024 a decision was taken to relocate the event from an outdoor location (Priory Gardens) to St Peter's Church. In the event this proved a wise decision as the July day was also unusually wet, chilly and windy. The Church provided not only a large space for the large exhibition of 32 stands and also a central area for displays along with the onsite Cardinal's Coffee Shop. Particular thanks are due to the staff of St Peter's Trust for the generous and helpful support which was provided on the Day.

3c) Publicity. Information about the event was shared in advance of the Day using social and other media and relevant networks. A street artist accompanied by Councillor Jane Davies paraded through the High Street several times on the Day with music to inform shoppers about the event. Regrettably due to the wet weather the proposed attendance of therapy horse and Shetland pony from Greatwood Charity will be sited in the Church grounds and a choir and exercise class have been invited to join the event for additional publicity.

In addition to the materials and information provided by the exhibitors several displays were programmed to provide a focus for the morning. Following the welcome and introduction by Mayor Kym Marie Cleasby the Marlborough Community Choir sang several songs with the Leader Emma Pooley describing the physical and emotional benefits of singing in a choir focussing not only on posture and breathing but also the social benefits of participating as a team, making connections and enjoying a shared and creative activity

Thereafter the Matt Fruci demonstrated a series of exercises inviting the audience to participate and this was followed by Age UK with a series of seated exercises performed to music demonstrating physical exercises to improve fitness and strength.

3d) Funding. A total of £1,000 was granted to support the event by the Area Board (£500 in March 2024 and a further £500 in June 2024)

Of this total the actual expenditure was £735.20 providing for the street artist, the purchase of a reusable banner and refreshments for the exhibitors.

Particular thanks are due to Councillor Jane Davies, Andrew Jack: Wiltshire Council Strategic Partnership and Engagement Manager, St Peter's Trust and Mayor Kym-Marie Cleasby.

In addition thanks are due to the sponsors and other supporters of the Open Day:

Age UK	Marlborough Area Board	St Peter's Trust
Fruci Fit	Marlborough College	Tesco Marlborough
Greatwood Charity	Marlborough Community Choir	Waitrose Marlborough
Kennet and Avon Medical Partnership	Marlborough Town Council	Wiltshire Council

3e) Lessons for the future

Initial feedback from some of the participant organisations confirmed the importance of the event in allowing different professional and other groups to meet and to share information about their respective services. This issue is of significance in supporting service development for the future.

It is intended to evaluate the success of the Day and to explore whether in due course the event increases interest in, and awareness of these services from members of the public.

On the basis of the 2024 event I recommend that the event is repeated.

4. Investment funding update.

The annual budget available for older and vulnerable people represents a total of £7,700

Grant application requests approved at the M.A.B. meeting 18.06.2024

- Area Board Initiative – Open Day event, £500
- Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group summer outings - £1,000
- Arts Together – Projects for isolated and vulnerable local people - £1,500

5. Future plans

The Group is due to meet again on 3rd October to plan ahead. It is understood that there are plans for a public facing health and wellbeing event to take place coincidental with the opening of the refurbished Marlborough Leisure Centre in the spring of 2025. In addition the value of the annual autumn networking event is recognised and will be planned accordingly.

Jill Turner,

Chair, Marlborough Health and Wellbeing Group

September 2024