

South West Wiltshire Health & Wellbeing Meeting

17th February, 2.00pm (online)

1. **Present:** Cllr Nick Errington (cllr lead), Karen Linaker (Wiltshire Council Community Engagement Manager), Pippa Webster (Age UK), Helen Wotton (Care Co-ordinator Sarum West Primary Care Network), Rachel Hansford (Mere Town Councillor), Ann-Marie Dean (Tisbury Memory Group), Jane Williams (Community First, Link Scheme Co-ordinator), Cllr Pauline Church (Wilton Councillor), Revd Jonathan Plows (Rector Lower Wylde & Till Valleys), Denise Binks (Tisbury Methodist Minister), Christina Williams (Sarum West PCN Elderly Care Co-ordinator for Orchard Partnership), Cllr Nabil Najjar (Cllr for Chalke Valley), Alex Boyd (Wilton Town Councillor)

2. Link Schemes

Jane introduced her role and work which was to support 42 link schemes in the county with publicity, training and recruiting new volunteers. She was grateful to Karen and the Area Board for offering to support this work, ensuring that schemes in South West Wiltshire had 'on the ground' access to laminated flyers and posters to promote their schemes and that these were displayed prominently in each and every village, as well as promoted on social media. She referred to the big drop in volunteers during covid and updated that numbers were starting to pick up. She highlighted how it was important for all health and wellbeing partners to support the link schemes and help clarify any misunderstanding that may occur locally. A regular misconception was that scheme volunteers only offered medical trips, but, whilst during times of low volunteer capacity this could often be the case, schemes were meant to offer transport for a range of needs.

3. Dementia Support

Karen offered an update that work to strengthen dementia support was beginning to gain momentum, with the help of a core set of local volunteers, and that tasks to map out current provision and need would be critical first tasks, with attempts to join up networks, improve

communication and marketing of activities and events being top priorities also.

The group discussed the key local roles that would underpin this work, including GP social prescribers, Sarum West PCN Frailty Team, Alzheimer's Support's Dementia Advisers, Age UK's Living Well social prescribers.

4. Housing Related Support Service

Karen updated that this service was due to stop at the end of March and that services and teams in Wiltshire had been working hard to ensure there was a robust plan of transition in place so that no resident was left without the support they needed. Pippa added that Age UK was also looking to take activities into the schemes. Karen explained that she would be helping to ensure that other programmes of activities both out in the community and in the schemes themselves were accessible. A range of views were expressed, with some highlighting how in some cases residents had proved that they were capable of rallying around and supporting each other, where as in other cases, there were serious concerns as to residents' welfare with the service ending.

5. Make A Friend Be A Friend Project

Karen updated that this project had been relaunched after a long wait due to covid, that it will see Carer Support Wiltshire setting up a telephone hotline to help connected isolated and lonely over 65s to local activities in Wilton and Barford. The hope was that the project would prove beneficial and hopefully secure funding to extend its reach in subsequent years.

6. Future Events

Karen updated that the postponed (18/3/2020) Silent Disco would take place in the coming months, and that a repeat of the successful event at Langford Lakes was being planned for May 2022.

7. Open forum

Representatives of services, partners and local groups each gave updates regarding their projects and events, to help raise the profile of upcoming initiatives and to share challenges and successes:

- a) Pippa updated that new Age UK activities were due to open up in Mere from March and that she and her team were supporting the Surviving Winter Grants push from the Community Foundation.
- b) Denise from Tisbury Methodist Church updated that new activities and groups were starting there in the coming weeks, including a new listening café, parent / carers support group and a wellbeing 10 week course
- c) New Zumba sessions for older people were about to be trialled in Tisbury
- d) Ann-Marie promoted the “all welcome” session at Tisbury Memory Group on the 2nd March, when the Move and Make Music project will conclude with a celebratory film and interview about the impact on members of the group (Hinton Hall, 2pm)

8. Date of next meeting 6th June, 11am at the Nadder Centre