

## **Note of Melksham Area Board Health and Wellbeing Group**

**Thursday 27 February 2020 at Melksham Town Hall**

### **1. Introductions:**

Councillor Pat Aves, Melksham Area Board/ Melksham Town Council (Chairman)

Councillor Jonathon Seed, Melksham Area Board

Dr Jonathan Osborn, GP Partner Giffords Surgery and Clinical Director Melksham and BoA Primary Care Network

Jo Woodsford, Healthwatch Wiltshire

Rachael Demery, Carer Support Wiltshire

Mat Billingham, Local Area Co-ordinator, Wiltshire Public Health

Martin Pain, Melksham Seniors/ Melksham Town Council

Chris Pickett, Melksham Older Persons Champion

Ian Cardy, Conigre Mead Nature Reserve

Grace Dalglish, Creative Minds Artist

Peter Dunford, Melksham Area Board

Apologies: Martin Elson, Contact the Elderly/ Re-Engage

Chris Guest, Blenheim House/ Majesticare

### **2. Notes of HWG meeting held on 3 December 2019**

Noted. Matters arising addressed on this agenda.

### **3. Primary Care Services in Melksham following the closure of St Damian's Surgery on 31 March 2020**

Dr Jonathan Osborn reported that the Primary Care Network had taken steps to mitigate the impact of the closure of St Damian's Surgery and he was confident that there was sufficient capacity within the Giffords and Spa surgeries locally to take on this extra load. Of the 3,300 patients transferring from St Damian's, the rough proportion would be one-third to Giffords Surgery, one-third to Spa Surgery and one-third to Bradford on Avon Health Centre.

In the face of a nationwide recruitment problem and shortage of GPs, extra healthcare professionals have been taken on at Giffords, including one new GP

partner, mental health specialist, physio and pharmacist, to supplement the 10 existing doctors. There are similar numbers of staff at Spa Surgery.

In response to concerns at the continued growth of the town population – with 1000 new houses in the pipeline - Dr Osborn said they had built in an “over-capacity” in current staffing to deal with the planned growth in demand.

There are some knock-on impacts in terms of limited space and capacity at the surgery buildings and discussions are ongoing with NHS England and landlords regarding possible expansion.

There are waiting times to see specialist doctors for non-urgent problems, particularly at Spa Surgery, but all urgent cases are seen “on the day”. Telephone and email consultation with patients is helping to manage workloads.

“Social Prescribers” are now being recruited to work in the community, employed through the Centre for Independent Living, helping to plug the gaps between health and social care services and helping to reduce resource pressures on the NHS. These roles deal with patients whose needs are not fully medical or fully social, such as those facing social isolation, depression and dementia, helping to signpost them to community services such as leg club, falls and balance classes, ear syringing clinic and memory club.

This role complements that of the Local Area Co-ordinator, employed by Public Health, which provides side-by-side help for clients to navigate the complex network of public and voluntary sector services and to signpost them to help, guidance and activities in the community.

Dr Osborn suggested representations be made to the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board to commission a countywide directory of services but the meeting was told we already have something similar on the Your Care Your Support Wiltshire website <https://adults.wiltshire.gov.uk/>

Giffords surgery has information on its website <https://www.giffordssurgery.co.uk/page1.aspx?p=1&t=1> as does Spa Medical Centre <https://www.spamedicalcentre.co.uk/clinics-and-services.aspx> .

Martin Pain reported that the Melksham Seniors had plans to produce a local directory of health and wellbeing services in Melksham for which a grant application to the Area Board is pending.

Carers Support Wiltshire has its “Make a Friend, Be A Friend” project. Healthwatch Wiltshire has an information line.

**AGREED: Dr Osborn agreed to attend an annual meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Group, or more urgently if necessary, to facilitate dialogue between the Primary Care Network and the local authorities and other stakeholders.**

#### **4. Grant Application: Carer Support Wiltshire requesting £ 965 towards creative writing workshops for carers**

Rachael Demery from CSW presented the bid for a series of 5 creative writing workshops, targeted at carers as a break from their daily caring duties, open to all across the county.

A number of questions were raised:

- there was a desire to focus attendance on Melksham-based carers within the 15 places available so that local monies would be seen to have local beneficiaries. Otherwise to share costs by seeking funding from neighbouring area boards (the rules allow a maximum of three) to fund a Wiltshire-wide approach?
- through discussion those present could see the benefit of a “treat” in the comfortable surroundings of Beechfield House, although this does increase the costs. The Art House Café was considered to be a cost-effective alternative, contact Martin Elson [martin@elson.com](mailto:martin@elson.com) to discuss.
- there was concern over “backfill” of the carer role - i.e. who would be providing respite care in the carers absence – and it was confirmed that there may be funding through the CSW Time For Carers Appeal for this.

The general point was made that “family carers” save the State thousands of pounds in institutional care costs and services such as the workshops proposed are a way for society to say “thank you” for this dedication. The concept of creative writing was supported as an effective way for carers to express the frustrations and complex emotions that they may be feeling.

**AGREED: Rachael agreed to re-focus the bid to address the issues raised and to re-present to the Melksham Area Board on 4 March**

#### **5. Introduction to Back on Track Stroke Rehab Service and Meadowbrook**

Grace Dagleish talked to the meeting about the “Back on Track” stroke rehab service which is a social enterprise operating monthly sessions out of the Riverside Club in Melksham. She gave a presentation showing art therapy activities undertaken - include painting, weaving, pottery and mosaics - with a client group aged 30 and upwards.

The group costs £ 50 per monthly session to run, so a total of £ 600 per annum, and is planning a future grant application to the Health and Wellbeing Group.



Grace also talked about “Meadowbank”, a social enterprise being set up by herself and her husband Jason, an outdoor therapy centre on farmland purchased at Woodrow Road in Melksham for people with poor mental and physical health. The project, which is still in its development stage, will feature an allotment and orchard for growing produce and flowers, keeping bees etc. and a converted barn as a workshop for indoor activities such as yoga and corporate team building events.

Further details will be shared in due course and Grace welcomes community involvement in the development of the project.

## **7. Any Other Business**

None