

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

**Monday 12 October 2020**

### **1. Attending:**

Councillor Nick Holder, Melksham Area Board/ Melksham Without Parish Council  
(Chairman)

Councillor Jon Hubbard, Melksham Area Board/ Melksham Town Council/ Age  
Friendly Melksham/ Young Melksham

Councillor Pat Aves, Melksham Area Board/ Melksham Town Council

Councillor Sue Brown, Melksham Town Council

Miriam Zaccarelli, Melksham Town Council

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

Phillipa Huxtable, Age Friendly Co-ordinator

Alan McFall, Melksham Family of Churches/ Foodbank

Peter Dunford, Melksham Area Board

**2. Apologies:** Jonathan Osborn GP, Cllr John Glover, Sue Mortimer

### **3. Melksham Community Response and Recovery**

Jon Hubbard reported that the Melksham Community Response hub is still operating with council support and volunteer helpers - albeit it at a reduced level due to lower demand - and hopes to be ready to scale up its work should the public health situation deteriorate further.

Phillipa Huxtable, the new Age Friendly Co-ordinator, is working on a volunteering strategy, handbook and role descriptions for volunteers, including contacting the 400 individuals on the MCR database to assess those who are still in a position to be actively involved either on a regular or an occasional basis.

In the last week, 20 new clients have been supported with shopping, prescriptions, odd jobs and friendly phone calls - which can be carried out from home by shielding volunteers – and this is in addition to other ongoing support for vulnerable clients which has become embedded into the fabric of community relationships and is no longer considered to be a MCR service.

Alan McFall reported that the foodbank continues to work alongside the support hub, dealing with clients in financial hardship referred by approved agencies. The foodbank remains busy and continues to be in receipt of generous donations of food and money from local benefactors. No-one is ever turned away without food and, if

they present without papers, they may receive a small food parcel along with the advice to seek a referral should they remain in need of emergency support. Sign-posting for financial advice is primarily to the Debt Advice team in Melksham or otherwise to the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

At the Baptist Church some vulnerable foodbank volunteers are having to shield and some of the community groups providing hot meals, knitting, exercise classes, choir and special educational needs support are currently not able to operate. Church services across Melksham are having to be delivered online or in a pre-booked, socially distanced way.

Pat Aves requested an update on the funding package agreed for the work of Age Friendly Melksham and reported that Melksham Town Council has still not discussed its proposed pro-rata contribution of £ 2,292. Peter Dunford confirmed contributions towards the post of Age Friendly Co-ordinator and the preparation of a 3 Year Age Friendly Action Plan: from Melksham Area Board (£ 3,000), Melksham Seniors (£3,000), Melksham Without Parish Council (£ 1,071 pro-rata) and Steeple Ashton Parish Council (£ 185 pro-rata). **ACTION: PD to speak to PA to expedite MTC decision**

Jon Hubbard reported on support services provided by Young Melksham during this difficult time :

- the "Teen Talk" counselling programme - featuring welfare phone calls and the restart of face-to-face sessions - now with a waiting list
- street-based youth work at King George V Playing Fields and Hornchurch Road Bowerhill, funded by the Wiltshire Community Foundation
- after-school and evening Youth Clubs have been on hold but the Canberra Centre hopes to re-open as a COVID-secure venue in November with a maximum of 15 kids per session plus youth worker
- SEND club and other services are on hold

Other mental health and counselling services for young people in the area include:

- Thrive counselling services run at Melksham Oak School by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) team at Wiltshire Council
- Wiltshire MIND counselling
- Barnardos counselling at Canberra Centre
- Motiv8 who support young people who misuse drugs or alcohol and who need advice, support and guidance to make a positive change.

#### **4. Next Meeting**

January 2021, date to be confirmed. Suggested focus on economic recovery, business and the town centre.