

Update for Wiltshire Area Boards

September 2022

Connecting with our Communities (CWOC)

The Connecting with Our Communities (CWOC) workshop took place at County Hall on the 30 August. The event was attended by VCSE members, Wiltshire Council colleagues and other partners.

Aims for the session included:

- To re-affirm the purpose of the Connecting with Our Communities (CWOC) group.
- To think about and agree what good looks like if we were living up to our purpose.
- To co-develop a model of intensive listening exercises (with this section of the event facilitated by Wiltshire Council colleagues).

Attendees unanimously agreed the group's purpose as being: -

- The CWOC group will have a 'helicopter view' of Alliance work and will provide a mechanism to support and guide meaningful community engagement throughout development, initiation and delivery of our transformation and service improvement work.
- To create a connecting space for organisations and people wanting to undertake meaningful community engagement. Group members can offer their own skills and expertise and signpost to other resources and groups.
- To be a vehicle for learning and sharing best practice so we grow our knowledge and capability together.
- Being a role model for our Alliance principles of engagement, advocating and enabling good practice across all our community voice and engagement work.
- Providing a forum to establish working relationships and processes to enable our community engagement work to be successful.
- Be the connecting group with wider scale work across the BSW system.

The group also explored the frameworks to be used going forwards and how these shape the principles of the group.

- [NHS England recently published guidance](#) related to community engagement that amongst other elements set out legal obligations to undertake community engagement.
- The BSW People & Communities Strategy that has previously been adopted by the CWOC group with the acknowledgement that it is a working document that will continue to be developed.

The main session was a World Café discussion forum where each of the five groups focussed on a different principal benefit of the statutory duties of engagement as set out in the NHS England guidance referenced above. These key areas were Assets, Data & Insight, Designing Services, Understanding Barriers, and Health Inequalities.

The next steps for the group are to identify and understand any gaps based on the feedback from the session and further collaboration to develop a plan on how best to make improvements in those areas.

Covid-19 and Flu Vaccinations

To stay protected throughout the cold winter months, residents in Wiltshire are advised to have both the Covid-19 autumn booster jab and the seasonal flu vaccine.

Each of the vaccines provide an added layer of protection against the two illnesses, both of which are expected to become more prevalent as the temperature drops and people spend more time indoors.

In the coming weeks, all adults over the age of 50 will be invited to come forward to arrange their Covid-19 booster vaccine through the National Booking Service, which is available online at www.nhs.uk or over the phone on 119.

At the moment, however, appointments for the booster jab can only be made by those over the age of 65, frontline health and care workers, pregnant women and people with a weakened immune system, along with those who they share a home with.

Further invitations will be sent out to other age groups, including people in their 50s and early 60s throughout September and October.

Appointments for the flu vaccine are now open to people of all ages.

Those eligible for a free jab, such as people aged 65 and over, can book their vaccination through their GP practice or at an independent high street location, such as a chemist or large supermarket.

People not eligible for the free jab can still arrange to be vaccinated but will be required to pay.

Further information about how to book an appointment can be found by visiting www.nhs.uk/flujab and www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccine.

Keep up to date

Those wanting to keep up to date with developments with the BSW Integrated Care System can sign up to receive The Triangle - a monthly newsletter about the work of BSW Together. The public facing publication contains a mix of news and updates showing how the BSW ICS is working to improve the health and wellbeing of local people, tackle health and care inequalities and improve services for everyone. A sign-up form is available here <https://bswtogether.org.uk/news-events/the-triangle/>