



## The Carers Together Wiltshire Partnership

*Community First is working in partnership with Age UK Wiltshire, Alzheimer's Support, Wiltshire Service Users Network, Citizens Advice Wiltshire and Wessex Community Action, under the umbrella, Carers Together Wiltshire. This partnership allows us to provide tailored support to the thousands of individuals across Wiltshire identified as a carer.*

For more information about the support we can offer through Carers Together Wiltshire, telephone 01380 710300 or email [enquiries@carerstogetherwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@carerstogetherwiltshire.org.uk).

## Support for Parent Carers

Are you a parent carer, providing care to your child who needs additional support?

Here at Community First, as part of the Carers Together partnership, we can provide a support conversation to discuss your needs. We offer information, advice and guidance and can also signpost and refer you to other support services. We can carry out Carers Assessments if your child is over 18, and you meet the eligibility criteria for a funded service. We will also be providing peer support groups and sending out regular Parent Carer emails full of information and events.



Jo Hiller-Culley is the Parent Carer Lead for Carers Together Wiltshire. Jo has been working to support Parent Carers in Wiltshire since 2012. Jo worked with the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council initially, as an information officer, then with the Wiltshire SENDIASS service around educational support for young people with SEN, and then for Carer Support Wiltshire for over four years, where she developed a robust support service for Parent Carers. Jo is looking to develop her role at Community First, part of the Carers Together Partnership. She would love to hear your views about what our new offer should look like. Please join Jo and her manager Hayley Boland on teams for a chat.

- Date: Thursday 23rd May 2024
- Time: 7-8pm (drop in)

For more information, and to obtain the link, please email: [jhculley@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:jhculley@communityfirst.org.uk). You can also sign up for the Parent Carers newsletter here: <https://mailchi.mp/93192f1024d4/parent-carers-newsletter>

## Voice It, Hear It - Current and Upcoming Engagement Projects



The Voice It, Hear It partnership and delivery team has been working with Wiltshire Council and BSW ICB to engage with people in Wiltshire on a variety of topics related to health and social care, with the overall aim of co-producing, co-designing and co-developing health and social care services locally.

The team has a number of projects underway and scheduled throughout 2024. These have been requested by Wiltshire Council, the Integrated Care Board and other partners.

- **Learning Disability and Autism Life Expectancy:** Working with people with lived experience and public health to understand how screening can be made more accessible and comfortable for people. Topics include bowel, breast and cervical cancer screening and testicular checks.
- **Technology Enabled Care:** Exploring how 18-25 year olds use technology to enhance their independence and how they find out what is available for them.
- **Wiltshire Council Prevention Strategy:** Working with people with lived experience to find out what prevention means to them. What improvements and solutions are needed to meet the diverse needs of our population?
- **Care Quality Commission Adult Social Care Inspection:** Engaging with adults and carers to hear their experiences of Adult Social Care in Wiltshire. Do they feel listened to? Are their choices about their care respected and are they involved in planning their care? What works well and what could be done better?
- **Accommodation Strategy:** Identify the vision and aims of older people to maintain their independence and control within their own home. If not in their own home, how service can be designed to feel like a real home. How older people can be more involved in planning for their future home needs in a timely way.
- **Wiltshire Museum Assize Court Development:** Working alongside the museum to recruit and support a disability advisory group to help inform the museum redevelopment.

For more information about Voice It, Hear It, please see the Project Summary included with this briefing pack. You can also find out more about the project on our website: [www.communityfirst.org.uk/voice](http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/voice). To contact the team please email: [voice@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:voice@communityfirst.org.uk)

## BeMindful - New Wellbeing Pilot Project



‘BeMindful’ is a new pilot wellbeing project led by Youth Action Wiltshire. Through Health Inequalities Funding, the project targets young people aged 11-16 living in the 20% most deprived wards of Salisbury and struggling with their mental health.

By working in partnership with schools and experienced VCSE services, BeMindful offers young people a range of support including access to group work, 1:1 mentoring, counselling referrals, signposting, vocational learning, healthy living and skills development.

*The following partners are involved in delivering the pilot project:*



## New Rural Housing Enabler Project

Community First is leading a new Rural Housing Enabler project in Wiltshire, with support from Wiltshire Community Land Trust. The Rural Housing Enabler (RHE) project will play a critical role in raising awareness of the lack of affordable housing for local people in rural parts of Wiltshire and encouraging and supporting communities to welcome and help make provision for new homes. The RHE will gather information to understand the need for affordable housing within rural communities and help empower communities so that they can explore a range of options.

The RHE will explore all options to bring forward projects that have the support of the local community. These will encompass, but not be limited to, conventional local authority and housing association new build or conversions; Section 106 or similar planning related affordable homes schemes; and schemes that combine both affordable homes for rent and shared or low-cost ownership. To achieve this the RHE will be willing to work with the two local authorities, housing associations and other not for profit providers in the area and private sector builders and developers.

The RHE will provide a great opportunity to connect with all parishes in rural Wiltshire, to begin ascertaining both the extent and type of affordable housing needs in the county and engage with those communities able and willing to do something about it. That `something` might include obtaining evidence of need, identifying possible sites (in particular `exception` sites) and in some cases establishing some form of community-led housing vehicle, such as a community land trust.

Crucially, the RHE will also be able to ascertain the existing and potential delivery agents for affordable housing, including Wiltshire Council, developers willing to provide a proportion of affordable housing in their proposals, and housing associations able to keen to work with rural communities. Accordingly, the RHE will be able to begin painting the whole picture of affordable housing needs within the county, help those villages keen to do something about it, and identify the potential ways of meeting those needs.

As well as establishing housing need another important ingredient in bringing forward more affordable housing for local people is the identification of suitable sites within or on the edge of the villages where these much-needed homes can be built. Part of the role of the RHE will be to liaise with landowners, CLTs, Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Plan groups to seek out such sites that might be brought forward.

The project is at an early stage, and we hope to have more information and project updates to share in the coming months.

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## Landfill Communities Fund

Are you a not-for-profit organisation in Wiltshire? Have you a capital community project you need some match funding for? Have you planning permission (if needed) and 3 quotes for the work you need doing ready to apply? If so, please fill in an Expression of Interest form which can be found on our website and send this to: [mhardwidge@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:mhardwidge@communityfirst.org.uk).

The Grants team will get in touch with you to discuss eligibility and an appropriate time to apply if you are in the correct area, conditional to available funds.

Download information pack: <https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/grants/>

## First Aid Training



We offer a range of first aid training courses at Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre, some courses can also be delivered remotely. Training courses are suitable for schools, youth groups and organisations. We can offer training for people with no first aid experience as well as refresher and requalification training.

Courses offered include First Aid at Work, Paediatric First Aid, First Aid for Mental Health and First Aid for Youth Mental Health. Courses range from 2 hours up to 3 full days of first aid training. During your course, you will be assessed by a qualified trainer and receive a certificate on completion.

A complete list of training courses is available on our website, with details about the course content: <https://www.oxenwood.org.uk/first-aid-training/>

For more information and to book training, email [dmaloney@oxenwoodcentre.com](mailto:dmaloney@oxenwoodcentre.com)

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## Employability Programmes

### Building Bridges

Our Building Bridges Programme, which supports people with significant barriers and challenges to move towards and then sustain education and employment, continues to deliver strongly and is currently supporting 108 participants across Wiltshire.

We will shortly be extending Building Bridges further with a specialist team to support individuals affected by homelessness as part of the Wiltshire Council Rough Sleeping Initiative.

Building Bridges also continues to provide numeracy skills support to qualifying participants as part of Wiltshire Council's Multiply Programme.

### Household Support Fund

Community First has been actively involved in helping to deliver Household Support Fund assistance to households in most need across Wiltshire during the current cost of living crisis. Between November and March, our Building Bridges and Youth Action Wiltshire teams distributed £45,000 of vouchers to 156 households - 82% of these were for food, 12% for energy and 6% for other essentials. We are hoping to provide even more assistance to households in need in the next phase of this funding in the coming months.

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## Community Insurance

Community Insurance is a specialist insurance agent service from Community First. We offer comprehensive insurance for local councils, village halls, community building and playing field associations, with support from our friendly and professional team.

Our policies are underwritten by Zurich. Income generated from Community Insurance is reinvested back into communities including support for village halls, community buildings, local councils and other services provided by Community First.

For a free quote and more information visit our website: [www.communityinsurance.co.uk](http://www.communityinsurance.co.uk). Or email: [communityinsurance@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:communityinsurance@communityfirst.org.uk) or telephone 01380 732809.

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