

Community First - AGM and Awards Celebration

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our invitation for the Community First AGM and Awards Celebration which will take place on **Wednesday 9th October 2024 (5.30-7.30pm)** at the Town Hall in Devizes. We look forward to seeing you there.

New Alternative Provision Offer for Wiltshire Schools - Limited Places Available

We are now accepting pupil referrals for our Alternative Provision offer at Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre and Linkenholt Countryside Adventure Centre. The provision has been inspected and approved by Wiltshire Council and schools can find out more via the Alternative Provision Portal on the Right Choice website or via our website: www.oxenwood.org.uk/alternative-provision. There are currently a limited number of places available. Schools who are interested in the Alternative Provision offer should arrange a place as soon as possible to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity for young people to experience the many benefits of adventure and outdoor learning.

Community Transport Services - Directory

If your organisation works with people in rural areas, you may already be aware of the service provided by Link Schemes and Community Minibus Groups. Community transport services offer a vital lifeline to local facilities and medical care for people across the county. Community First offers support to local transport groups and provides a directory of contact details for individual Link Schemes and Community Minibus Groups. This directory can be filtered by approximate location e.g. nearest town and by keyword search for specific local areas.

Demand for access to transport services has increased in recent years. We have also seen an increased volume of requests for help with transport which are being sent directly to Community First. Whilst we offer support to local transport services, we cannot make transport arrangements for individuals directly. If you work with people who need help with transport e.g. for medical appointments, please share the link to the Community Transport Directory with them so they can contact their local service:

Transport Directory: <https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/transport/directory/>

Health Research Champions - Help Shape the Future of Health Research

Your voice matters in health research. We believe that health research should include everyone, so all people have a chance to join and benefit. We are particularly interested in hearing from people with disabilities and people from our global majority communities.

What Can Research Champions Do?

- **Raise Awareness:** Help people learn about health and care research and encourage them to join.
- **Speak to Groups:** Talk to patient and community groups about health and care research.
- **Share Information:** Help people find out about research studies, like those on Be Part of Research and Join Dementia Research.
- **Join Media Interviews:** Take part in interviews to help spread the word about research.

- Work with Schools: Visit schools and other learning places to promote research.
- Attend Events: Participate in local events and activities to support research.

Why Become a Research Champion?

- Make a Difference: Have a positive impact on health care and treatments.
- Share Your Story: Offer your experiences and insights to help others.
- Connect with Others: Meet people who share your interests and work with professionals.
- Learn and Grow: Gain new skills and knowledge.

Join Us Today and Make a Difference!

Together, we can make sure that health research includes everyone and meets everyone's needs. Our Motto: *"No Research About Us, Without Us."* Let's work together to make sure health research includes and helps all people. Become a Health Research Champion today!

If you'd like to register to become a Health Research Champion, please complete this registration form: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/CommunityFirst2/HealthResearchChampionRegistrationForm>

To find out more without committing please contact: askyring@communityfirst.org.uk. We can share more information and discuss what support and training is available should you wish to join.

A poster is also included with this briefing pack which includes information that can be shared with your contacts and networks, on your website and in newsletters.

Parent Carer Drop-in & Online Sessions for Autumn 2024

Sessions are available throughout the Autumn and a list of upcoming face-to-face and virtual groups for parent carers. Dates, times and locations can be found below:

- **Tuesday 1st October 2024**, Support group, 2:30-4pm, Trowbridge Family Hub, County Hall. Drop in.
- **Thursday 17th October 2024**, Virtual evening group, 7-8pm on Teams.
- **Wednesday 6th November 2024**, Support group, 10:30am to 12pm, Community First meeting room, Devizes. Drop in.
- **Thursday 21st November 2024**, Virtual evening group, 7-8pm.
- **Wednesday 4th December 2024**, Support group, 10:30am to 12pm, Cosy Club Salisbury. Drop in.
- **Thursday 19th December 2024**, Virtual evening group, 7-8pm. Christmas Quiz.

A representative from Forward Carers will be attending the first two face to face sessions, to talk about their online offer for carers, and the new carers ID card. For the online sessions, please email Jo Hiller-Culley for the link: jo.hiller-culley@carerstogetherwiltshire.org.uk

Voice It, Hear It

We have previously included information about the Voice It, Hear It project in updates for Area Boards. Voice It, Hear It, is a co-production and engagement project that unifies the collective strength of its partners to support the voice and engagement of people in Wiltshire. The project is funded by Wiltshire Council and BSW ICB and delivered by Community First, Wessex Community Action, Wiltshire Service Users Network, Age UK Wiltshire, Alzheimer's Support and Celebrating Age Wiltshire.

The Voice It, Hear It team is continuing to support Wiltshire Council, BSW ICB and other partners to deliver engagement projects on a variety of topics. Topics for Autumn 2024 include technology, health screening, dental care and accommodation. As mentioned in our September briefing, there is also an opportunity for extended partners to join our Voice It, Hear It Engagement Network.

In addition to direct engagement through face to face groups and meetings, the project also offers opportunities to participate online through surveys. A list of current surveys and other opportunities to be involved can be found on the Voice It, Hear It landing page on the Wiltshire Together website:

<https://wiltshiretogether.org.uk/voice-it-hear-it>

Scroll down to the section called 'Voice It, Hear It activities' for a list of current surveys.

Please share this link with your contacts and service users (if appropriate) so that we gather as much useful feedback as we can about local services. This will help to inform the creation of new services or change the way services are delivered locally to make them better for the future.

www.communityfirst.org.uk/voice
voice@communityfirst.org.uk

Facebook: Voice It, Hear It

Instagram: @WiltsVoice

Briefing prepared by:

Ellie Ewing

Marketing and Communications Manager (Community First)

eewing@communityfirst.org.uk