

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: Melksham Area Board
Place: Melksham Community Campus Library
Date: Wednesday 21 September 2022
Time: 7.00 pm

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 12 September 2022. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Kevin Fielding, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01249 706610 or email kevin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

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DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

WILTSHIRE AREA BOARD REPORT

Community Safety Plan

DWFRS Community Safety Plan can be found on the DWFRS website;

<http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>

Prevention

We are committed to making a real difference to the lives of people in Dorset and Wiltshire. Our aim is to reduce the level of risk and harm to our communities from fire, targeting those most at risk. We do this primarily through our Safe and Well visits.

A Safe and Well visit is **FREE** and normally lasts about one hour covering topics such as:

- Using electricity safely
- Cooking safely
- Making an escape plan
- What to do if there is a fire
- Keeping children safe
- Good practice – night time routine and other points relevant to you
- Identifying and discussing any further support the occupier may need

Are you or anyone you know:-

- Over the age of 65?
- Need a smoke detector?
- Have a long-term health condition?
- Suffer from poor hearing or sight loss?
- Would you struggle to escape in the event of a fire?

If you can answer yes to more than one of these questions, then please call us on 0800 038 2323 or visit <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>



Protection

On-going interaction by Protection Team members with Local Authorities, Private landlords and tenants regarding fire safety-related matters: external cladding systems; fire detection and warning systems; fire resisting doors (& self-closers); combustibility/fire resistance of construction materials; commercial and residential sprinklers systems and water-mist suppression systems

General Enquiries

If you have a general fire safety enquiry regarding commercial property, please email fire.safety@dwfire.org.uk and the Fire Safety Team will respond in office hours.

Fire Safety Complaint

If you wish to tell us about fire safety risks in commercial premises, such as locked or blocked fire exits, you have three options:

- You can email the fire safety department at enforcement@dwfire.org.uk
- Call 01722 69 1717 during office hours (9am-5pm).
- Call our Service Control Centre on 0306 799 0019 out of office hours (5pm-9am)

On Call Recruitment

Have you always wondered if you could join the fire service, but haven't had the opportunity to find out more? Have you found yourself seeking your next challenge, keen to give back to the local community or wanting to learn new skills including leadership and teamwork? Then becoming an on-call firefighter is for you.

As a paid position, on-call firefighters commit anywhere between 60 to 120 hours per week, during which time they must be able to respond to the station immediately.

Many have 'normal' jobs during the day, then upon their return home make themselves available overnight or during the weekends. Some of our crew respond from their workplaces during the day, and we are very grateful to their employers for releasing them to perform their vital duties.

Anyone over 18 years old can apply (although you can also apply once you are 17½) you must be able to respond and attend the fire station within 5-8 minutes, you have a good standard of physical fitness (i.e. you are generally active), and you must have the right to work in the UK.

Further information on becoming an On Call Firefighter can be found at www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/on-call-firefighters/ or should you have any questions, you can call **01722 691444**.

Recent News & Events

DWFRS launch wildfire prevention campaign #BringAPicnicNotABBQ



This week, at the start of National Picnic Week (19-26 June), Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) is launching its wildfire prevention campaign – #BringAPicnicNotABBQ.

The campaign aims to remind the residents of Dorset and Wiltshire, as well as day trippers and holidaymakers, to take care in our beautiful open spaces this summer. During 2021, firefighters across Dorset and Wiltshire attended 494 wildfires and already in 2022, firefighters across the UK have attended more wildfires than in 2021*.

More information on staying safe and enjoying outside areas whilst avoiding starting a wildfire can be found at www.dwfire.org.uk/heath-fires-and-countryside-safety

New safety packs for gypsies and travellers



The Service has launched new safety packs targeted at gypsies and travellers, following collaborative work with the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller and Boater (GRTB) team at the charity Julian House. Safe & Well Team Leader Tracy Jenkins reports.

Fires in vehicles and caravans can be devastating, and we hope the packs will help to keep more people safe. It's also important to raise awareness of carbon monoxide and the dangers it presents. Travellers may be at risk if they encounter problems with solid fuel stoves, including flue pipes, so it's important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning and to seek help quickly.

If you know of anyone living roadside or on a site who would benefit from a pack, please contact one of the following. • Jassy from the Julian House team: email grtb@julianhouse.org.uk or phone 07498 723504. • Aileen from Wiltshire Council: email gypsyandtravellerservice@wiltshire.gov.uk • Gary New, Gypsy & Traveller Liaison: email gary.new@dwfire.org.uk or phone 07789 923458.

Junior Good Citizen returns

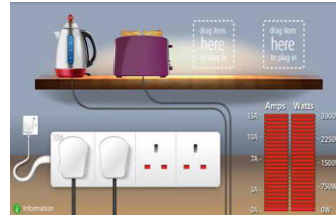
During June, around 2,800 Year 6 children from Swindon and Wiltshire will attend Junior Good Citizen with their school. Education manager Tess Cross reports.

Undertaking a carousel of activities to help them understand how they can live safer lives, these 10-11 year olds will be discovering the importance of being safe with electrical items, thanks to the DWFRS Education team.

Junior Good Citizen is a partnership between Wiltshire Police, Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire Council, DWFRS and other organisations. The scheme has been running for almost 20 years and, after a break of two years due to Covid, we are delighted to be able to support it again.



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**



Station open days make a welcome return!



After two years of not being able to hold events on station, it's great to see open days being planned again!



Demand

Total Fire Calls for Melksham Fire Station for period May 2022 to Jul 2022:-

Category	Total Incidents
No. of False Alarms	29
No. of Fires	2
No. of Road Traffic Collisions and other Emergencies	2
Total	

Local Incidents of Note

No incidents of note for the period May to July.

.....
Station Manager

Email:.....dwfire.org.uk

Tel:

Mobile:

Carers Champion up-date. 09.22.

Due to the restructuring activity in Wilts Council Engagement and Partnerships team, and the restructuring of the Community Engagement Managers teams in Carer Support Wiltshire it has not been feasible to commit time to the role. However, during the period, mainly through the CSW Melksham Carers Café events obtained interim feedback from carers on the main issues that are of concern to them (see survey document). Nothing in the initial survey will be of a surprise, and supports the feedback concerns expressed by other organisations, and items in the local press. I have asked CSW if they could use their database to circulate the survey questionnaire more widely to get more comprehensive feedback, but have had no response to-date.

I have attended remotely several meetings with other CC's, hosted by Georgia Tanner WC Carers Lead. Minutes of these meetings are available from Georgia. Feedback from other CC's in the County reflect the concerns expressed in my initial survey.

Prior to an announcement from Government regarding the potential increase in energy costs, many carers have great concerns about the additional energy costs they have to cover, especially the use of specialist equipment required by the person they are caring for, this includes items that are 'plugged in' 24/7 and other non-domestic items requiring additional use of energy. Similarly the increasing cost of food has required carers, many of whom are on fixed incomes with no benefits, to consider using foodbanks for the first time.

Earlier this month I attended a meeting of the Age Friendly Group managed by Mary Curran to explain my role. This group has also completed a survey on Age Friendly issues. There are direct comparisons between this survey, and my initial Carers survey. At the meeting it was proposed to set up a steering Group to produce an action plan for the most pressing issues. I volunteered (as an older person) to be part of this steering group, which would also help me to have an input in my CC role. The subsequent meeting to set up the action plan was cancelled and no future meeting date has been arranged.

Young Carers Event. I have not been up-dated on this initiative since the last Are Board Meeting. As I do not have DBS enhanced clearance from Wilts Council, it would be difficult for me to have any hands on involvement if required.

I have met with Richard Rogers, Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager, Wiltshire Council (Devizes, Melksham, Pewsey) who has explained the change in support for the CC role.

Young Carers Events – Update and Progress Report

Richard Rogers, Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager

1. Introduction

Young carers and young adult carers (18 to 25) all too often spend significant amounts of time caring for a relative in addition to the time they need to spend on education, work and time for themselves. Coronavirus has significantly increased those pressures with evidence showing a steep decline for many of them in their mental health and wellbeing. Additionally, two thirds of young carers are feeling more stressed and less connected since Coronavirus.¹

Melksham Area Board has recognised this and the vital role that these young people play in our community. As a result, the board is keen to express their appreciation and support the running of some additional activities for them.

Youth Action Wiltshire, who are commissioned by Carers Support to provide activities for young carers, were approached and they agreed to take on this project.

This is the first time that an Area Board has requested to be linked to this vital support and offered its help.

2. What will take place?

It is proposed that 2 separate events should take place for different age groups as experience has shown that it is extremely difficult to just do 1 event for a wide age range. They will also need to be held outside of school holidays as there is already ample provision during these times.

- I. A primary school age event lasting for at about 4 hours on a Saturday at Melksham Campus
- II. A secondary school age event to be held on a weekday evening at the campus

The above two events will be completely run and organised by Youth Action Wiltshire. They will undertake a three week consultation with all known young carers to ensure that what is provided is what they want and is not duplicating other provision. Transport will be provided for anyone who needs it.

3. How many young carers are there?

There are currently 52 open young carer cases in Melksham Community Area. 25 are of secondary school age and 27 of primary school age.

Not all young carers will wish to or be able to attend. If there are any free spaces left, they will be offered to other young carers in close geographic proximity

¹ “Our survey on the impact of Coronavirus on young carers and young adult carers” – Carers Trust 2021

4. What is the time frame?

The events will be held during January/ February 2023. The key tasks and timeframe can be seen below:

Task	target date	Who	Comments
Consultation with young carers regarding content of provision	Completed by 7 th Oct 22	Youth Action Wiltshire	3 week consultation starting mid September
Discussions with Carer Support regarding young adult carers provision	Completed by end Sep 2022	SEPM	If agreed by the Area Board and Carer Support to hold an event, some additional tasks may be required
Book venues	Completed by 14 th Oct 2022	Youth Action Wiltshire	SEPM has obtained support of Campus Manager. What facilities are to be booked depends upon activities required and the dates depend upon availability
Programme put in place	Completed by 8 th Nov 2022	Youth Action Wiltshire	There is a menu of readily available provision
Budgets and funding finalised	Completed by end Nov 2022	SEPM	In conjunction with the Area Board
Arrange suitable gifts for the carers	By end of 2022	Melksham Area Board	Possible options to be investigated, discussed and agreed
Formal invitation and bookings for young carers	November onwards	Youth Action Wiltshire	Informally the young carers will know that the events are happening
Staff and volunteers assigned and checks undertaken	From Oct to end of 2022	Youth Action Wiltshire	Indications are that it will be one or two staff members per event plus a couple of volunteers.

5. What funding is required?

Melksham Area Board have accrued £5,500 to support this project.

Youth Action Wiltshire have their own funding to provide these types of activities and will therefore not require too much additional money from the Area Board to run these events. A contribution for the following will be requested:

- Cost of hiring the campus rooms
- Some additional staff time to carry out the administration of this project

Some funding will also be required to run the young adult carers event if agreed and any gifts that the board wishes to offer.

6. Support for young adult carers

There are approximately 20 young adult carers aged 16-25 registered in the Melksham Community area. There is some cross over with Youth Action Wiltshire for those aged 16-18 as they are also receiving support to transition into adult caring.

The Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager (SEPM) is discussing with Carer Support whether a separate activity for young adult carers can be organised particularly as this age range seem to have been affected the most by coronavirus. As the “cost of Living” takes effect, it is likely that for many of them, anything classed as a luxury will quickly disappear.

The proposal is that the Melksham Area Board uses some of its funding to show its appreciation for what they do by paying for them to have a ‘luxury’. This could be one of many things such as going to an escape room or being taken out for dinner. They may like to do this activity with the person they care for as the opportunity to do something fun and special together seldom arises. If this proposal is agreed, then Carer Support will discuss this with the carers and see what they would prefer. The cost should be less than £1k

Young Carers Action Day is on March 16th 2023 and normally there is no funding to do an activity for the carers. Holding it on or near this date would be wonderful for the carers but also raise awareness and provide additional publicity.

7. What will be the involvement of the Area Board?

The organisation and running of the events will be carried out entirely by Youth Action Wiltshire and if the young adult carer event is agreed, Carer Support. Melksham Area Board will offer its support mainly through the provision of funding where required as well as helping raise the awareness and profile of the events

The area board has indicated that it would like to offer a gift to the young carers attending. Some of the suggestions so far have included:

- Helping with leisure centre membership for 3 months. Currently only adult carers get a concession and not those under 18. This is being looked at within Wiltshire Council
- Cinema membership / tickets
- Discounts at local stores subject to business agreement.
- Jus Eat Vouchers

This would all need to be looked at in relation to the cost, demand and availability

8. Recommendations

The Area Board is asked to

- I. Note and approve the running of the 2 young carers events as outlined in this report
- II. Agree to the provision of an event for young adult carers as outlined in this report

