

Note of Melksham Area Board Health and Wellbeing Group

Thursday 2 September 2021

1. Present

Councillor Nick Holder, Melksham Area Board (Chairman)

Councillor John Glover, Melksham Without Parish Council

Amanda Brookes, Melksham and Bradford on Avon Primary Care Network

Sue Denmark, Care Home Volunteers

Mary Cullen, Stroke Association

Louise Clapton, Dorothy House Hospice Care

Brian Heath, Chippenham and District Talking Newspapers

Jacob Russell, Nurse Plus

Sarah Cardy, Age UK Wiltshire

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

Patsy Clover, Melksham Town Council

Phillipa Huxtable, Age Friendly Co-ordinator

Moira Conroy, Community Connectors, Centre for Independent Living

Peter Dunford, Community Engagement Manager, Melksham Area Board

2. Introduction

All briefly introduced themselves. Cllr Holder welcomed all to the Town Hall and explained that discussions would be held with Melksham Town Council regarding this working group becoming a joint forum for discussion of health matters for Melksham and the wider community area.

3. Apologies: Dr Claire Rigby

4. Care Home Volunteers

Sue Denmark introduced CHV and offered to provide a presentation with full details at a future date. She reported that 40,000 older people have no family or friends to visit them and this is a major source of depression in care home residents.

Volunteers represent a largely untapped resource that can hugely benefit the quality of life for older people in care homes. Through research, Care Home Volunteers has identified the challenges that care homes currently face in making the most of this precious asset as well as the key components that will help provide care homes with volunteers so that they can deliver the fun, joy and stimulation that is sometimes missing for residents.

ACTION: Sue to make a fuller presentation on CHV to a future meeting

5. Support to Stroke Survivors

Mary Cullen outlined the work of the Stroke Association and her role as Engagement Officer for Wiltshire in supporting stroke survivors

Key statistics: there are more than 100,00 strokes in the UK each year; there are over 1.2 million stroke survivors; the cost of stroke to society is around £26 billion a year; stroke is the 4th biggest killer in England and Wales and the 3rd biggest in Scotland and Northern Ireland; almost two thirds of stroke survivors leave hospital with a disability.

Mary described stroke, the types, risk factors, symptoms and impacts. She invites feedback on the following questions:

- What level of support currently exists in our community area for stroke survivors?
- How could we support stroke survivors more effectively and enable them to participate more in the life of the community?
- What opportunities are there to bring people together to take action on stroke, that is meaningful to them?
- How can we ensure that the voice and lived experience of stroke survivors is heard and responded to?

ACTION: Contact Bev Pace from the “Back on Track” rehab service to engage with stroke services in the Melksham area.

6. Melksham and Bradford on Avon Primary Care Network

Amanda Brookes provided an update on the work of the PCN which covers the primary care practices in Bradford on Avon and at Spa and Giffords surgeries in Melksham. A fantastic service continues to be delivered under very trying circumstances, including delivery of the vaccine clinic at Spencers Sports and Social Club. The combined pressures of COVID, staff shortages and population growth in the local area has resulted in a 40% rise in demand for doctor appointments. Two new “social prescribing” posts have been created as a response to a growing focus on delivering care in the community. A review of the “NHS estate” is under way with decisions expected on plans for new capacity at doctors surgeries as well as the

future of hospital sites at Chippenham and at Melksham being determined. Cllr Holder has spoken to Simon Yeo, Head of Estates at NHS, who has agreed to come to present the new plans to the group once these are in the public domain.

ACTION: Invite Simon Yeo and NHS locality lead, Elizabeth Disney, to speak to a future meeting.

7. Age Friendly Melksham update

Phillipa Huxtable gave an update on the work of AFM, including details of the COVID response from Melksham Community Support; the Friendly Phone Calls and Face2Face video call projects; and a baseline survey being carried out of older people's needs. A special conference event is planned for 22 October – a joint initiative between Age Friendly Melksham and the Melksham Area Board - to feature presentations and roundtable discussions, allowing stakeholders to participate in developing an Age Friendly Action Plan for Melksham.

ACTION: Scoping for the age-friendly event to be carried out by Phillipa Huxtable and Peter Dunford

8. Support for Young Carers

Cllr Nick Holder reminded the group that the Melksham Area Board had agreed £2,750 to fund an event for young carers with the bulk of the funds to pay for Agency staff to cover the time duration of the event, so that the young person can relax for few hours in the knowledge that the person they care for is in good hands. Local businesses may be approached to see if any of them are prepared to provide sponsorship for a gift for each of the young carers. The event probably to be held at Christmas 2021, with free use of the Canberra Centre and possibly a free taxi service provided.

ACTION: Further details of a Young Carers event to be shared with the Health and Wellbeing Group in due course.

9. Appointment of Older Persons and Carers Champion for Melksham

Peter Dunford explained that this volunteer role acted as a conduit between the seniors community and the Area Board to represent the views of older people and carers in the Melksham area. The role description includes:

- Talk to and seek the views of older people or carers in their local communities on matters related to services provided by the Council or NHS and represent these views at area boards.
- To provide a focus for the exchange of views and information between older people or carers and the Council's adult care and housing services.

- To work with the Area Boards on service improvements and developments to meet the needs of people in community areas.
- To attend area boards to report back on older people and carers issues.

Chris Pickett, from the Mens Shed, has vacated this role after several years of excellent service. A replacement is sought and expressions of interest are starting to be received. The appointment process will be discussed by the Area Board at its meeting on 22 September.

ACTION: Expressions of interest to be made in writing for the role

10. Health and Wellbeing Grant applications

i) Melksham Talking Newspaper requesting £ 500 towards costs

Brian Heath from Chippenham and District Talking Newspapers presented a request for a £500 health and wellbeing grant to match monies received from Melksham Town Council to enable the talking newspaper to expand its listenership.

A recording is made by Brian of himself reading each fortnightly edition of the Melksham News, either from his home or from a studio in Chippenham. This is circulated to the talking newspaper subscribers: 23 blind individuals plus 4 care homes in the Melksham area. Costs are for memory sticks, USB sticks, key fobs, wallets, printing costs and speakers.

ii) Celebrating Age Wiltshire requesting £ 1,500 Year 2 funding

Rebecca Seymour from Celebrating Age was unable to be present so the Chairman asked for the item to be deferred for consideration at the Melksham Area Board meeting on 22 September

11. Recommendations to the Melksham Area Board

To be discussed and agreed between the Chairman and the Community Engagement Manager

12. Any Other Business: None

Note taken by Peter Dunford, Community Engagement Manager