

## South West Wiltshire Health & Wellbeing Group Meeting

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024, 11.00am

1. **Present:** Cllr Dick Budden (Area Board Lead for Health & Wellbeing), Karen Linaker (Wiltshire Council Strategic Engagement & Partnership Manager, Communities Team), Jane Mason (Mere Day Centre), Bev Cornish (Tisbury Parish Clerk), Irene Kohler (Salisbury Area Board-Older Person's Champion), Emily Shepherd and Georgina Ruddle (NHS Banes, Swindon & Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), Tom Rolley (Ansty PC and GP), Rebecca Seymour (Celebrating Age), Lydia Little (co-chair of the Wiltshire Autism Partnership Board), Karen Wade (Wiltshire Council Commissioning), Linda Webb (Health Watch Wiltshire), Kate Brooks (Age UK), Jacky Maton (Carer Support)

### 2. **Mental Health & Autism**

The group received the attached presentations and the following key points were made in response to this report [Mental health and autism: Falling between the gaps | Healthwatch Wiltshire](#)

- (a) Resources are at such a low point for health needs of the general population, but even more so for people with autism facing mental health needs
- (b) Local expertise in the health and social care workforce is also very poor and requires a lot of time, investment and careful management to ensure the mental health support needs of people with autism can be properly attended to
- (c) There are also wider issues in terms of how benefit support reforms impact upon the mental health capacity of people with autism
- (d) A positive is that there is an increasing number of people speaking up for autism and providing strong advocacy for their needs
- (e) The Health Watch Wiltshire report comes at a crucial time when the Integrated Care Board is finalising its Mental Health Support Strategy for the coming 5 years
- (f) The strategy seeks to be fully co-productive in its approach
- (g) Currently the ICB is working closely with the Fire & Rescue Service as a key partner to train and upskill in supporting people with autism
- (h) The Health & Wellbeing Group will be able to monitor the development of the strategy through a range of means, including a new website and via partner communications.

- (i) ICB colleagues offered to return to the group with an update on the strategy's delivery plan
- (j) The Health and Wellbeing Group's role is to attempt grass roots local initiatives to extend the range of support available to people with autism including those with mental health support needs. Celebrating Age is currently working on a song writing workshop project with Able Hands Together as an example of what can be done at a local VCS level
- (k) GPs, Social Prescribers and Care Co-ordinators would very much welcome an 'easy access resource pack' from the ICB to help them respond to the huge need they see day in day out
- (l) The greatest wish of people with autism is to feel included and to be offered platforms to discuss needs in a non-specialist way, particularly to bring to the fore the voice and influence of people with autism in the way events, activities, initiatives and services are shaped and delivered

### **3. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

- (a) Karen delivered the attached presentation, and the following key points were raised
  - We need to take time to better understand the needs of residents living in deprivation
  - We need to renew our efforts to help older people and vulnerable adults know what activities and support is available to them, not relying too heavily on digital communication
  - Greater support from statutory services for the voluntary and community sector who are seeing increasing levels of frailties and unable to rise to the ever complex needs presenting
  - Consider how to help the high number of residents living in the community area living with dementia, heart disease and hypertension
  - Renew efforts to increase engagement in the Health & Wellbeing Group

### **4. Grants**

The group commented on the 3 health and wellbeing grant requests coming to the 29<sup>th</sup> May area board meeting as follows:

- Compton Chamberlayne Church Concert – not supportive due to high cost of this one off annual event, seemingly not of community wide benefit, and to this being inappropriate use of public funding from a small budget which ought to be prioritised for those more vulnerable and in need of area board funding

- Wilton Coffee Drop in – supportive especially as helping to broaden the offer of support groups and initiatives in Wilton, alongside the long standing Thursday Group, encouraging both initiatives to collaborate and support each other's work
- Barford St Martin Fete – not supportive as fetes should be locally funded, e.g. by parish council, and because of the precedent that would be set in South West Wilts, with its 39 parishes many of which also run fetes