

Briefing Note

Topic: Wiltshire Good Neighbours De commissioning briefing

Further Enquiries to: Sue Geary

Date Prepared: 22nd March 2016

Introduction and background

This briefing note has been prepared to give an update on the de-commissioning arrangements for the Wiltshire Good Neighbours Service (WGN) and to set out considerations for area boards.

The Care Act (2014) introduced general duties for local authorities to ensure that everyone living within a community has access to information and advice about their local care and support system and a general duty to prevent, reduce and delay needs arising across a community. The Wiltshire Good Neighbours service (WGN) did not meet this requirement as it was only delivered in rural areas in Wiltshire.

A decision was made to not renew the contract for the WGN service and that the funding should be fully devolved to Area Boards from April 1st 2016.

Health and Wellbeing Groups (HWB).

The Health and Wellbeing Groups will provide a local forum to facilitate the coordination of joined up services for older people living within a community area. They are intended to gather the views of local older people and ensure these views are represented at the Local Area Board. The groups will focus on working with community commissioners to identify the needs of a local population and support the development of services that will meet these needs.

It is anticipated the groups will identify how best to co-ordinate support for vulnerable people in their area in a way that is more inclusive than the current good neighbour service and makes best use of the existing community capacity.

Older Peoples and Carers Champions

To support the development of these groups funds are being devolved to the area boards to appoint Older People and Carer champions.

Each of the area boards have been asked to appoint local older peoples champions and carers champions. The champions will be part of the HWB group, identifying the needs of carers and older people and working to highlight and address these needs through initiatives supported by the HWB group.

Community Engagement Managers (CEMs) will work closely with the appointed champion(s) in order to ensure that the community groups they represent are included in area board discussions.

Funding

An annual budget of £6,500 will be devolved to each Area Board to support and facilitate HWB group activities. This represents the full budget that previously was used to commission GNS.

It is anticipated that HWB groups will draw on local resources and assets in order to generate support for local initiatives.

A further £1000 will be provided annually to each of the area boards to support the appointment of older people and carer champions.

De-commissioning Good Neighbours

The GNS will formally come to an end on 31st March 2016. People who were supported by GNS have either been referred to Adult Social Care teams or signposted to other Voluntary Sector support groups.

The GNS supported a number of groups in the areas they worked. The intention was that these groups should not rely on GN input and be self-sustaining. HWB groups or the Area Board can consider if they wish to support these groups with the funding they have if they are considered important to the community.

Good Neighbours staff will be made redundant on the 31st March. Some Area Boards have created new roles around their HWB groups that these staff will be appointed to.

The Council continues to build on the information and advice portal www.yourcareyoursupportwiltshire.org.uk. The portal has a wealth of helpful guides and a resource directory of local activities and resources.

What Area Boards Currently Doing?

Area Boards are at different stages around what to do next. Some areas already have existing groups that will take on the role of the HWB group, others will be starting from scratch and are starting to form a new group.

A Terms of Reference has been drafted for these groups, but Area Boards are encouraged to adapt this to suit how they want to meet these needs in their area.

Healthwatch Wiltshire are keen to support the development of these groups and the Community Commissioners are discussing the best way for Healthwatch to support CEMs and Area Boards.

Most Area Boards are yet to appoint their Older people and Carer champions.

Further Information

For more information please contact Sue Geary, Head of Community Commissioning,
sue.geary@wiltshire.gov.uk