

Amesbury Health and Wellbeing Group.

Notes of meeting held on Wednesday 27th April at Amesbury Leisure Centre.

The Chairman facilitated introductions from all attendees and invited Olly Spence from Wiltshire Council Adult Social Care Commissioning Team to provide the background to the County wide initiative to establish Health and Wellbeing Groups operating under the Community Area Boards.

Olly positioned the new groups in the context of the 2015 Care Act and the obligation on the Council to delay and reduce health and social care interventions through increased prevention measures including providing more information for people to make better choices about their lifestyle and health and social care needs. The step change is towards Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) making more positive commitments to people's health and wellbeing and optimising local resources and assets to help and involve people in their own locations. The purpose of the Health and Wellbeing Groups is to establish a practical working link between Council commissioners and locally based community groups recognising that each community area will likely be different in terms of composition and need.

Dave Roberts, CEM for Amesbury, further explained that the expectation of the Health and Wellbeing Group was for it to be a catalyst to make things happen at the Amesbury Community Area level it would build on the successful workshop held in the summer of 2015 when local people were asked what was important to them. The new Group is very much a Steering Group to link up and link in with what already exists in the community area – networking with the likes of the LINK scheme and the Housing Associations who are active in the community and with people who are potentially isolated or vulnerable.

In terms of ways of working the Health and Wellbeing Group would be responsible to the Area Board and it would receive an allocation of funding that it would be required to manage making recommendations to the Area Board on how it should be discharged to the benefit of the community area. It had already been agreed the successful community lunches organised by Jan Tidd would be supported from this fund so it was the role of the Group going forward to identify other projects that would help to meet the identified local needs of older people. The funding could be used for 'Revenue' unlike the Area Board Grants which were for 'Capital' projects. Dave Roberts advised that he was hoping that an additional allocation of funds would be made but this would be further discussed as part of Area Board business.

The Chairman further qualified the role of the Health and Wellbeing Group in respect of escalating local issues through the Area Board and to Adult Social Care and the emerging discussions and involvement with the voluntary sector and particularly Age UK.

Questioned about the allocation of funds between Area Boards – noting that Amesbury had more Parishes than most other community areas – Councillors were able to confirm that this view had been represented.

Julian Kirby, CE Age UK Salisbury, spoke frankly about the fundamental shift in the way that we look after our ageing population against the back drop of national and local funding constraints.

Commissioners and the voluntary sector have to look differently at what we do to make life better for older people. Continuing to meet individual needs on a long term basis to help them 'stay still' may not now be the best way forward – Befriending and Shopping are good examples – they meet an immediate need but they don't address a root cause or necessarily lead to an improvement in long term wellbeing. Age UK is looking at its own structure and its own ways of working and is fully committed to ABCD as a working practice looking particularly at how it works with clients, volunteers and the community – encouraging the use of neighbours in a volunteer like role without the formality of current volunteering requirements and protocols.

There were questions about the proposed practice including the lack of DBS checking but this was mitigated on the basis of introducing near and known neighbours not strangers.

Cllr Graham Wright commended the 'Good Neighbour' model, identifying Durrington as a location with a good community spirit of looking out for each other and providing local groups to meet local needs. The biggest issue identified from last year's Older Peoples event were communication and transport – 'who is who', 'what is what' and 'how do people get there'.

Cllr Mike Hewitt used the example of an older lady recently visited who is now frightened of going out and doing things – people in villages, people anywhere do become isolated and it's not just about clubs and groups – it's also about help closer to home.

The beauty of the Good Neighbour scheme was having someone on the ground who identified needs and opportunities – the challenge for the Health and Wellbeing Group is to develop a model to do exactly the same going forward.

Eamone McClelland welcomed the initiative and confirmed the involvement of the Housing Group with Local Housing Panels as a 'way in' to related parts of the community - in particular they are promoting chair based exercise groups which would benefit from Area Board funding. Community Lounges are a resource that are potentially underused and which could be utilised as a community facility.

Jan Tidd confirmed that the Community Lunches would continue and that in her new role she was keen to establish Tai Chi sessions which can be more inclusive than other exercise classes.

Representatives from the Leisure Centre noted that many of the 'what older people want' activities previously identified are part of regularly scheduled activities and that in particular they link to the Active Health team who can provide targeted sessions based on identified needs for example falls or recovery from strokes.

Prompted by discussion on communication and making information available Kevin Gaskin from Healthwatch Wiltshire provided an update on the Wiltshire Council/Healthwatch information portal Your Care Your Support Wiltshire which contains a Service Directory for organisations, groups and clubs that meet a health and wellbeing need. The intention is to make this a single point of reference to signpost available services and facilities. It is a growing facility but still requires input from local areas and local representatives to input or report what is important to their area. **Action.** Dave Roberts to circulate link to the website to all attendees.

It was noted that Parish Councils, Parish Clerks and Parish Newsletters are an excellent source of information for what is happening locally. It is often the case that there is a lot of information about local facilities and resources but not everyone knows how or where to look for it.

It was noted that referrals to Day Centres is generally down – this may be something for the Health and Wellbeing Group to pick up on at a future point. Wheelchair friendly transport may be an issue. Dave Roberts advised that Wiltshire Council minibuses are available to be used and that funding could be available to train local drivers under the MIDAS scheme.

The Chairman welcomed the open discussion between the group members noting connections being made by people by virtue of being part of this group. **Action.** Dave Roberts to circulate email addresses of all attendees and members to provide a short profile of what their organisation or group does. Dave Roberts will bring all of these inputs together as a reference document for the group.

Moving forward all attendees were keen to remain as part of the group with the suggestion that Health should be represented by Practice Managers or Care Co-ordinators. **Action.** Invite to be sent. Jan and Penelope to make direct contact. Anyone with direct contact to let Dave Roberts know.

Building on the outcomes from the Older People meeting last year was seen as important – not necessarily in terms of providing new services but more about what we can do as individual organisations or collectively to contribute towards the list of what people want. **Action.** Dave Roberts to re-circulate the list of outcomes from the 2015 meeting and group members to consider for the next meeting what added value they might be able to bring to these issues and to identify those that they think are priorities. **Action.** Dave Roberts to send out a reminder with the agenda and calling notice for the next meeting.

The Chairman identified the potential of the group in bringing agencies and organisations together to the benefit of clients in the community area. The group is there to bring about positive outcomes and to identify solutions to perceived needs.

The next meeting of the group was scheduled for Monday 13th June at 2pm at the same location.