

Calne Older People's and Carer's Champions report to the Calne Area Board on 6th December 2016.

Both of Calne Older People's and of Carer's Champions have been active since the last Area Board meeting.

Calne Health and Social Care Forum meeting on the 18th October

The Calne Forum has been meeting since 1996 as a discussion group for health and social care matters in the Calne Community Area. Members have included health and social care professional working locally as well as local residents. Speakers are arranged on local services which has enabled professionals to meet outside their workplaces as well as to network and assist working together for the benefit of service users and patients.

At the last Forum meeting on the 8th October, the Forum members agreed that there was not a need to form a separate Health and Wellbeing Group as the Forum was already fulfilling many of the requirements of a local Health and Wellbeing Group. This was agreed unanimously by the members present. All future Forum meeting will have an agenda "Health and Wellbeing Group" for discussion of activities since the last Forum meeting with input from the Older People's and Carer's Champions, Wiltshire Council and others as appropriate.

Calne Local Voices

The Calne Champions advertised and held a successful meeting "Will you be a voice for older people and their carers?" with tea and cake in Calne Library Hub on the 14th November for "Local Voices". With people from a wide cross-section of the Calne area - from Calne, Hilmarton, Yatesbury, Cherhill as well as from the Methodist minister, a Day Centre Chair and Co-ordinator and Marden Court Activities organiser. The aim of holding the meeting was to engage volunteers from across the community area to assist the Older people's and Career's Champions reach more of the population of the area and to help to bring their health and social care issues to the attention of the Area Board for possible action.

Many existing local initiatives were discussed and shared to reduce local isolation on common themes.

The role of Local Voices was discussed and clarified. It would include input to future grant applications for Area Board funding as well as promoting local health and social care initiatives

Calne Fitness and Friendship Club

The Club was promoted and set up by Helen Shakespeare, a local Occupational Therapist as she saw a need for keeping older people physically, mentally and socially active and reducing loneliness and consequently reducing dependency on using health and social care services. After discussion at the Calne H. and S.C. Forum and local health services who both gave support, she submitted an application for a grant from Calne Area Board and was successful at the last Area Board meeting. She gathered support from Age UK Wiltshire who offer similar opportunities in six locations in Wiltshire as well as Wiltshire Health and Care and Calne Town Council. The grant application was the first to Calne Area Board, which was treated as a local pilot to develop the assessment procedure for scoring the application and for future grant applications

The Club started on 3rd November at Beversbrook Sports and Community Facility, which is well equipped for the fitness sessions in the community hall and is fully supported by the staff there. Sessions start with gentle activities to improve fitness to music led by a qualified instructor, then refreshments followed by an easy sports activity. There are opportunities for members to participate in taster sessions in sports such as table tennis, walking football, walking netball, short tennis etc. Sessions are held on Thursday afternoons from 2 – 4 and have been widely promoted by flyers and health staff. The numbers attending have averaged 16 each week in the first 4 weeks with the first session free and £3 thereafter. The sessions are supported by several volunteers and will continue in 6 week blocks until March when it is hoped it will financially sustainable. The Club is very grateful to the Area Board for their grant support.

Calne Men's Shed project

The Calne Community Engagement Manager recently had a meeting with a group of men who have decided they are going to set up a Calne Men's Shed project. They are looking for a venue for their Shed and plan to have a meeting to attract more members in the New Year.

David Evans and Diane Gooch

Calne