

Wiltshire Council

Melksham Area Board
8 February 2017

Melksham Special Older Persons Area Board

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To provide feedback following the Melksham Area Board meeting on Wednesday 16th November 2016, which focussed on activities for local older people.

2. Background

- 2.1. An annual 'special' Older Persons Area Board is held in Melksham, to better understand the needs of local seniors.
- 2.2. In November 2016, the focus was on prevention, the cost of 'care' and the ways in which local, voluntary activity providers are promoting active ageing.
- 2.3. A 20 minute workshop took place with the 86 attendees at the meeting. Attendees discussed at their table 'What type of support does your club, group and organisation need?'
- 2.4. Attendees were asked to place their suggestion under one of six headings; funding, volunteers, transport, promotion and marketing, paperwork and governance or other.

3. Findings

- 3.1. The three suggestions that appeared most prominently were as follows:
 - i. Not sure where to go for funding
 - ii. Finding/ keeping volunteers
 - iii. Insufficient information about local clubs
- 3.2. The full list was as follows:

Funding

Not sure where to go for funding
Funding towards a volunteer coordinator post
Not enough funding or right type available

Volunteers

Finding/ keeping volunteers
Rewarding/ recognition volunteers

Transport

Better use of community transport
Insufficient transport to RUH

Promotion and marketing

Insufficient information about local clubs

Paperwork and governance

Help/ Coordination from the county, town, parish councils

Other

Information about low cost entertainment providers
Groups working together more closely
Venues
IT skills
Intergenerational work

Misc

Have some leg exercising machines at the Leg Club too – these will need funding
Support and provision of venues for NHW meetings
Will there be transport to the Leg Club?
How about ‘taster sessions’ where villages get transport to the Monday Club to see what is offered. Do one village at a time.
More awareness of how families or individuals can access the services available to them
Isolation – through doctors?
Barrier – elderly residents only want to go out for appointments and not socially
Making the health and wellbeing of older people a regulated priority

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That the Area Board acknowledges this report and aims to address the issues raised.
- 4.2 That the Community Engagement Manager works along with partners such as Melksham Seniors, and local councils to improve the areas highlighted within this report.
- 4.3 That frequent feedback is given to the board on progress.

Rhys Schell
Melksham Community Engagement Manager
E-mail: rhys.schell@wiltshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01225 716752