

Corsham Area Board 24 March 2011

Chairman's Announcements

(a) End of Life: Dying Matters –Awareness Week 16-20 May 2011

There's one thing we can all guarantee in life and that is one day we will die. We choose how we live and how we have our children, but often don't get around to discussing our future plans. Death remains a taboo subject, something we're all afraid or unwilling to talk about.

NHS Wiltshire, Wiltshire Council and local hospices are joining in with national events planned for 'Dying Matters' week 16-20 May. The aim being to raise awareness of how we can talk about planning for our future care and putting plans in place with our families

Ask most people how they would like to die and most would say 'at home, or a hospice, and surrounded by the people that I love.' But fewer than half of us achieve that aim.

Planning for your future not only ensures your wishes will be respected but that your family and loved ones are taken care of and supported at a very difficult time.

You can also really support your family by writing a will; planning your funeral and putting into place a power of attorney for someone to look after your affairs should you become incapable.

Look out for Dying Matters events this May in your local area. There is also very good advice at www.dyingmatters.org.uk

A leaflet talking about planning for care at the end of your life is available at http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Endoflifecare/Documents/Planning_your_future_care%5B1%5D.pdf or for a hard copy please contact Alison Bell at NHS Wiltshire 01380 736 044

Where to get more advice?

For useful information on funeral options and writing wills go to <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/Death/index.htm>

For more information on granting power of attorney go to <http://www.thecarer.co.uk/LastingPowerOfAttorney.html>

A guide on how to set out your preferred priorities for care can be found here http://www.endoflifecareforadults.nhs.uk/assets/downloads/ppc_1.pdf

For more information on organ donation go to <http://www.uktransplant.org.uk/ukt/default.jsp>

(b) Reducing Child Poverty Strategy Consultation

The Child Poverty Act requires each local authority to produce a child poverty strategy.

The consultation is currently open regarding the content of the Wiltshire Reducing Child Poverty Strategy. The draft strategy includes a suggested strategic objective around geographic approaches (page 16).

The Area Board is invited to contribute its views. The link is set out below:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/healthandsocialcare/childrenyoungpeoplefamilies/reducingchildpovertyconsultation.htm>

Consultation closes on 4 April 2011.

Information has already been sent to a wide distribution including all councillors, the Wiltshire Assembly, thematic partnerships, schools and early years' settings.

(c) Proposed Changes to Bus Services

As a result of significant reductions in local authority funding, and the Government's insistence that a high proportion of the savings are achieved in the first year, Wiltshire Council has had to make difficult decisions in setting its budget for the 2011/12 financial year. However, due to efficiency and procurement savings of £850,000 and the use of additional income from car parking to help fund bus services, it has been possible to limit to £600,000 the amount that has to be found from making changes to bus services. This puts us in a much better situation than many of our neighbouring authorities.

The proposed changes have been identified according to the Council's published Guidelines for funding of supported services, which were the subject of recent consultation as part of the third Local Transport Plan. The intention behind the proposals is to minimise the impact on users as far as is possible, by spreading the changes across the county and withdrawing services or journeys where alternatives are available, or which are relatively poorly used or expensive to run per passenger carried.

The main changes affecting the Corsham Community Area are;

- Withdrawal of Sunday evening services after 6.30 / 7pm on services 232 (Bath – Corsham – Chippenham) and 272 (Bath – Box – Melksham – Devizes)
- Reduction in the frequency of the ZigZag service (Trowbridge – Bradford – Melksham – Corsham – Chippenham) to two-hourly
- Withdrawal of service X76 which provides a daily shoppers bus from Marlborough to Bath, via Calne, Melksham and Kingsdown

Although we have to make the required saving, we are confident that the proposals represent the best way of achieving this with the minimum of hardship. Nevertheless, we recognise that changing bus services will inevitably have an impact on users, and want to give communities the opportunity to respond if they are aware of particular difficulties that will result. It may be possible in some cases to fund a limited alternative service, or to help local people develop community transport solutions.

A letter has been sent to all town and parish councils explaining the proposed changes, and asking for feedback. Responses are requested by 1 May so that there is the opportunity if

necessary to investigate alternative provision before the changes are implemented. Replies should be sent to ian.white@wiltshire.gov.uk in the Council's Passenger Transport Unit.

Not linked to the above proposals, changes were also made to the ZigZag service (Trowbridge – Bradford – Melksham – Corsham – Chippenham) from 14 March as a result of the need to find another operator following Bodmans Coaches decision to withdraw from operating the service.

(d) Great Western Hospital – NHS Foundation Trust

Great Western Hospital chose to bid to run all of the services currently provided by Wiltshire Community Health Services – the provider arm of NHS Wiltshire. Following a competitive process, in November 2010 the Trust was selected as the preferred bidder for the following services:

- Maternity
- Children's and Young People's Services
- Adult Services

Further details about the transfer of these services will be circulated at the Area Board meeting.