

MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

MARLBOROUGH HEALTH AND WELLBEING GROUP

PROGRESS REPORT AND UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2021

The following report provides a short update on the Health and Wellbeing Group situation following the COVID 19 pandemic lockdown.

1) Financial bids

With a focus on responding to the impact of the pandemic on the vulnerable adult client group, the Health and Wellbeing Group has recently supported an innovative bid from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust for a 12 week practical course offering mental health and physical endeavours at a cost of £4,279. The course has been provided previously in Devizes and Swindon and will commence in the autumn.

The 12-week programme of weekly nature-based activities for Marlborough include practical conservation and habitat management, tool use, bushcraft, crafts (e.g. willow weaving, felting, natural inks), food growing and cooking, green woodwork, nature ID skills, interpersonal skills (communication, emotional literacy, resilience). Minibus transport will be provided. The Trust will use a variety of their own nature reserves (including High Clear Down, Ramsbury Meadow, Hat Gate, and Jones' Mill), and other green spaces in an around Marlborough. They will seek to work in partnership with other groups such as Action for River Kennet.

HWB Group members will consider other potential bids against the remaining funds for the financial year 2021 - 22.

2) Stroke Association

Following an introduction from Andrew Jack to the new South West Engagement Officer for the Stroke Association; Mary Cullen, I have facilitated introductions to a number of local organisations with the aim of raising awareness of stroke in our area. A 'map and gap' exercise conducted with assistance from the Kennet and Avon Medical Partnership had indicated the scale of unmet need; in excess of 350 known stroke survivors.

Mary is now meeting with the Golf Club and Gardening Association as an important post stroke recovery focus is to encourage patients to resume their former activities. The Food Gallery has offered to become a 'stroke friendly' coffee shop and Anne Hancock from the Jubilee Centre has also met with Mary to explore options for collaboration.

Jill Turner,

Chair, Marlborough Health and Wellbeing Group

September 2021