

Southern Wiltshire Area Board – Health & Wellbeing Group

Online Meeting – 17th August 2023, 11am

Summary

1. Attendances

Maureen Atkinson (Bourne Valley Day Centre, and Link)
Dawn Beauchamp, Helen Nash, Debbie Farndell (Downton/Whiteparish Surgery)
Becky Bye (Rethink)
Jess Tarrant (Abri Housing)
Liv McLennan (Sounds Better CIC)
Irene Kohler (Salisbury Older Person's Champion)
Ian McLennan (Area Board Councillor for Laverstock)
Kate Darbyshire (Resident Engagement Manager, Wilts Council)
Lynn Kinsey (Ashley Grange Care Home)
Rich Rogers (Area Board Chairman and Health & Wellbeing Lead)
Karen Linaker (Strategic Engagement & Partnership Manager)

2. Dementia Support & Activities

Recognising that dementia has long been a priority of the Area Board, we discussed what more we could collectively do to help villages in the community area become more dementia friendly.

Liv outlined the key points from the consultation she had recently carried out with partners and people living with dementia and their carers (as detailed in full in the attached). She explained that, if successful in bidding for funds, she will pilot a Dementia Friendly Downton project over the coming year.

Noting the key conclusions drawn from the pilot are signalling the need for (i) appropriate and timely support (ii) meaningful activities (iii) stronger partnerships, we discussed the following ideas:

- (a) Sourcing sufficient substantial funding to pay a co-ordinator to steer and administer a new piece of work to facilitate (i), (ii) and (iii) above
- (b) Exploring this piece of work as a new Neighbourhood Collaborative
- (c) Ensuring the set up of this new strand of work has the means to endure for at least 3-5 years, building on the work done previously and ongoing by VCS and statutory partners
- (d) Exploring sponsorship opportunities amongst the local business community

3. Help Us Plan for a Spring 2024 Volunteering Event

We discussed the findings of national surveys indicating the general decline in people volunteering, and the Area Board's desire to deliver an engagement event

next year with the objective of raising the profile of all the good work being done by a wide range of VCS organisation, and helping them to attract new volunteers.

The group felt that the event would need strong marketing and business sponsorship, a range of short taster sessions to facilitate interactive and fun engagement, some form of smart and simple sign up system for attendees to commit to volunteering opportunities easily, and lots of tea and cake!

4. New Ideas for Health & Wellbeing Initiatives

- (a) 'Help to get isolated out and about' scheme, not just to get to activities, but to do the simple - once every day pleasurable things like shopping, including asking neighbours to help
- (b) Care Home Friendship Day: already started at Ashley Grange Care Home – where the wider community is invited in to spend time together for activity and company
- (c) Pop Up trips to the sea-side etc
- (d) Befriending schemes to help the isolated get out and about, or just to welcome in someone to regularly chat to in their home

5. Partner Updates

Jess updated the group that the Old Sarum and Longhedge Food Pantry was up and running each Wednesday at Old Sarum Community Centre, including during the summer free lunches and activities for young families. She encouraged all to spread the word so that all were aware of it and able to attend. Towards the winter, the Pantry would also open up as a Warm Space. As the project developed, there was scope for the Pantry to open up on more days, alongside the new activities that the centre manager was planning.