

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (2)

Meeting: Calne Area Board
Place: Online
Date: Tuesday 9 March 2021
Time: 6.30 pm

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 1 March 2021. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Stuart Figini, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718221 or email stuart.figini@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

5 **Chairman's Announcements** *(Pages 1 - 6)*

- Wiltshire Independent Visitor Scheme
- Covid-19 – Community Testing for Asymptomatic People
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- Healthwatch Wiltshire – Update for March 2021

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 8 March 2021

Chairman's Announcements

Subject:	Wiltshire Independent Visitor Scheme
Web contact:	Email: Sheila.lupton@wiltshire.gov.uk IVScheme@wiltshire.gov.uk https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/children-young-people-independent-visitor-scheme

Wiltshire Independent Visitor Scheme provides independent befriending support to children in the care of Wiltshire Council. These are children who are fostered or living in other care settings, usually in Wiltshire but sometimes outside the county borders. It is a requirement that the council to provide an Independent Visitor service, but young people chose whether or not they wish to take up this offer. This means they are really motivated to take part!

Our volunteer Independent Visitors (IVs) play a really important role, visiting the young person they are "matched" with regularly, listening to them and taking an interest in their lives. They offer consistency, and quality, fun, one to one time. IVs make a long-term commitment to support a young person until they leave the care system, and often beyond this time.

We already have a fantastic team of almost 60 volunteer IVs, who are out supporting young people in the community. The scheme is very popular with young people and currently we have a waiting list of those waiting to be linked up with an IV.

These are some comments from young people in our scheme, talking about what having an IV means to them:

"She's very funny, very caring, if I am ever sad, she is someone to talk to".

"She's brilliant, bubbly and nice to be around."

"It's lovely to have somebody 'normal' to talk to outside of the system."

"You get to do things you never knew about."

We are sharing our message with each Area Board, with the hope you can promote our volunteering opportunity and highlight the importance of this scheme. We don't want our young people to be kept waiting for a "match" and so we are keen to find the right volunteers in the places where they are needed. At present, we are particularly short of male volunteers, those who have experience of supporting children with more complex needs, and also volunteers who might be willing to travel further afield if needed (e.g. the south coast and Gloucester area). We want to find volunteers from Wiltshire if possible, in case young people move back in-county when they are older.

All volunteers will require an enhanced DBS disclosure. They should be over 18 and able to make a long-term commitment to meet with a young person for a couple of hours every three to four weeks. There is a requirement that all volunteers should be car drivers and be independent from Wiltshire Council (not a teacher, foster or residential carer or member of children's social care staff).

Volunteers are reimbursed for their travel and any visit expenses. The scheme also offers volunteers regular training and support.

How to register an interest

If you would like to know more about the IV Scheme, please visit

Email: IVScheme@wiltshire.gov.uk

Phone: Shelley Barnes on 01225 713897 or Deborah Welling on 01225 713980

Chairman's Announcement

Subject:	Update on targeted COVID-19 community testing for asymptomatic people
Web contact:	Email: Hayley.mortimer@wiltshire.gov.uk

We will shortly be introducing the Government's COVID-19 rapid community testing initiative for specific groups of asymptomatic people in Wiltshire.

Our programme is primarily aimed at the following groups of people:

- Smaller businesses (50 employees or less) where staff are unable to work from home
- Early years staff based at private (non-maintained nurseries)
- Childminders

Our test sites will be at the following locations:

- Trowbridge – County Hall
- Devizes – Leisure Centre
- Salisbury – Five Rivers Health and Wellbeing Centre
- Chippenham – Monkton Park

Devizes will be the first to open on 18 February and the rest will soon follow. Until the other sites are open, the Devizes site will initially be the only one that people can book a place for.

Those in smaller businesses who cannot work from home, staff at private (non-maintained) early years settings, and childminders have been chosen because they are not currently involved in any other national mass-testing programme.

People will have to book to arrange an appointment and will not be tested if they have not done this.

The tests are self-administered and will take less than 15 minutes and results should be known within half an hour.

This is not to be confused with surge testing. Surge testing is increased testing (including door-to-door testing) and enhanced contact tracing in specific locations in England and is not currently taking place in Wiltshire.

Free testing continues to be available to everyone in Wiltshire who has COVID-19 symptoms – high temperature, continuous cough or loss of / change in taste or smell. People should visit www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 to book a test in that instance.

With regards to early years staff, we're very aware that due to the need to have the correct ratios at settings, that logistically it might be difficult for them to release staff to attend one of the testing sites. We completely sympathise with this, but at the moment this is the only way we are able to provide this testing service. We are speaking to representatives at national Government to see if more can be done and will update everyone should the situation change.

When used alongside other measures, this type of community testing has the potential to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 within communities.

However, should people choose to participate in the testing programme, it must be stressed that getting a negative test result is only a snapshot indication that the person tested didn't

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have COVID-19 at that time. It is therefore not a passport to freedom and all other COVID secure measures must continue to be followed.

Anyone who receives a positive Lateral Flow Test result automatically activate legal obligations to self-isolate and may also claim for a Test and Trace payment if they are eligible. If we all continue play our part, then we can control the spread of the virus and help ease the pressure that our health and care services are under.

NHS Test and Trace is working with government departments, institutions and employers across both public and private sectors to support delivery of asymptomatic testing to large organisations, including those providing critical services. More information on this can be found at Register to order coronavirus tests for your employees - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) More information, including comprehensive FAQs can be found at:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/publichealth- coronavirus-testing

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Hayley Mortimer, Public Health Consultant on hayley.mortimer@wiltshire.gov.uk or Jessica Ryan, Public Health Specialist, jessica.ryan@wiltshire.gov.uk

We will keep you updated on this work.

Chairman's Announcements

Subject:	Stand as a unitary, town or parish councillor in May
Web contact:	Links provided below

Stand as a unitary, town or parish councillor in May

Do you have the desire to help and become involved in your community?

Do you have time to give?

Do you like a different challenge every day?

...If so, it might be time for you to stand as a local councillor.

Elections are taking place on 6 May 2021 for Unitary, Town and Parish Councils – it's not too late to be nominated! **Unitary Elections**

Find out more about what it is like to be a Wiltshire unitary councillor, by visiting [Becoming a councillor - Wiltshire Council](#) where you will find FAQs, including details of how to manage the role around work commitments. See a video from the [Local Government Association](#) about why you should consider standing.

The role can be flexible around existing commitments and unitary councillors are currently paid an allowance of £13,833 per year for spent on the role. A carers allowance is also available to help towards care for a dependent whilst you undertake some council duties, such as attending meetings.

Parish and Town Council elections

A parish councillor is immersed in the local community and it can be a really rewarding role. Find information and videos from parish councillors about their experiences with the National Association of Local Councils [Elections — #MakeAChange \(nalc.gov.uk\)](#), or get in touch with your local parish council.

What next?

Details of how to run for election are available at:

For the unitary elections visit [Unitary elections - Wiltshire Council](#)

For the Town and Parish Elections visit [Town and parish elections - Wiltshire Council](#)

The [Local Government Association](#) and [Electoral Commission](#) also have lots of useful guidance.

Mental health forum members produce their own guide to support services

People with lived experience of mental ill health have produced their own comprehensive guide to mental health and wellbeing services on offer in Wiltshire.

Members of the Wiltshire Mental Health Open Forum worked together to compile the Wiltshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Support Services list, which details where adults, children and young people can get support, counselling, and advice on topics such as addiction, bereavement and homelessness.

Set up in July 2020, the forum is a joint collaboration between Healthwatch Wiltshire and mental health service provider Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (AWP), and is supported by a range of organisations including Wiltshire Council, Richmond Fellowship, Carer Support Wiltshire and Citizens Advice.

The free online forum, which runs once a month, provides a unique opportunity for people to speak directly to those who run mental health services in Wiltshire, talking about their experiences and sharing their ideas for ways services could be improved.

Forum regulars wanted to create the list of contacts as a way of helping people who are struggling with their mental health to find the right support for them quickly and easily.

One member said: “I found, as a mental health service user, it was especially useful to learn more about the different organisations that are out there and to be able to contribute my opinions and ideas and for them to be listened to by professionals. Being part of the creation of the list was very exciting.”

AWP Local Involvement Coordinators **Teresa Bridges and Christina Gregory** said: “We have been really pleased with the way the forum is going and the willingness of people to join us virtually and get their views heard.

“Service users and providers informed us that there was not enough information out there about the range of services available to someone needing mental health support in Wiltshire, and when someone is very poorly the last thing they would do is look at notice boards or search online. Therefore they needed something that could be given to them directly, by their GP for example, and hopefully this is what we have achieved.”

Claire Edgar, Director - Learning Disabilities and Mental Health at Wiltshire Council, said: “Having access to support and advice for those struggling with mental health is so important and particularly so at this current time as we all cope with the challenges of life during the pandemic. This guide is going to be a tremendous help to many people to help them access the right support with ease.”

Jo Woodsford, Volunteer and Partnerships Lead at Healthwatch Wiltshire, said: “Our members have taken complete charge of putting this list of resources together, bringing their own experiences to creating something that not only benefits them but will help other people too. Their determination and enthusiasm has been amazing, and we’d like to say a big thank you to them for all their hard work.”

Learn more about the forum and download the guide at healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk/wiltshire-mental-health-open-forum

