

28th January 2016

Wiltshire Council entered into a partnership with Community First in 2010 to deliver the Good Neighbour Scheme. This partnership comes to an end in April 2016 and the decision has been made not to renew the agreement but work differently by facilitating local wellbeing through the area boards.

Adult Care Commissioners facilitated a series of workshops in each of the County's Area Boards asking older people what kind of services they felt should be available within their community. People wanted better information on what was available in the community and people to help them access support.

Based on this feedback and other events with older people and the voluntary sector it was decided that this responsibility should be devolved to the eighteen area boards and that the Good Neighbours service would no longer be provided through the current contracting arrangements.

In parallel to this, discussions with the voluntary sector will be taking place around how we can better target resources and improve information and advice to people. Healthwatch Wiltshire will help facilitate this discussion.

The new approach will build on the success of local youth networks and will establish a Health and Wellbeing group (HWG) in each area. These groups will include the newly appointed older peoples champion, commissioners, local members and other key representatives from the community.

It is proposed the groups will add to the functions relating to social inclusion and wellbeing previously provided by the Good Neighbours by making recommendations to the Community Area Board on how priorities for funding should be determined.

What this means for Wiltshire Council and Communities

- Local people will be given a greater say in promoting wellbeing at a community level.
- Health and wellbeing groups will be able to work closely with Healthwatch, commissioners and other key stakeholders to establish local needs and priorities.
- Health and Wellbeing groups can respond to local challenges and make the best use of local assets including local knowledge, resources and voluntary organisations.
- Adult Care Community Commissioners can work closely with members, customers and key stakeholders to respond effectively to local needs while coordinating county wide solutions where required.

- The groups will promote links between universal services (including leisure and libraries) and services that support specific customer groups including older adults or those with a disability.
- It will provide opportunities to access external funds through grant funding and partnership working.

Proposals

Amesbury Area Board has identified 3 options to deliver a local solution.

Option 1

To let the termination of the GN scheme take its course. To set up a group consisting of Safe Places, T&PCs, Age UK Health Watch, Adult Commissioning and others who work with older people or provide services such as lunch clubs and day centres. This group will make recommendations to the area board and use the delegated funding to deliver services in the community.

This option will not use any of the delegated funding for a post and will allow full use of funds for services and identified priorities in the community area.

This option will also rely on someone from within the community to coordinate a potentially time consuming task. The focus could easily be lost with other pressures coming into play in the next 12 months.

Option 2

To seek the services of a person on a self employed basis using all of the delegated funding to work with groups as in option 1 and bring back recommendations to the area board.

This option could potentially use all of the delegated funding allocated to the area board and leave a shortfall to deliver any local recommendations.

This option would then rely on the person appointed to fund raise so therefore putting more pressure on the post and very little delivered at community area level.

Option 3

To use a proportion of the funding delegated to the AB 70% – 80% to seek the services of a person as in option 2 and to use the other 20%-30% plus any further funds identified to deliver local priorities. This person would work closely with local groups to make recommendations to the AB and also recruit volunteers from within the community to assist with services such as lunch clubs and transport issues.

It is hoped that groups could be supported to access / bid for other grant funding, or other organisations may be able to fund activities (such as parish or town councils). Support to complete bid documentation and business cases may be required.

The benefits of this approach would be that:

- Local decisions on funding are taken at a local level
- Greater likelihood that funding goes towards local community priorities
- Greater engagement by people at a community level

All 3 options above would entail working closely with the Community Engagement Manager, local groups and a councillor nominated from the area board.

It should be noted that the AB is not in a position to employ any people in any capacity at any time.

The area board to consider the 3 options above in more detail and consider any further options that may be brought forward. To consider making recommendations to the meeting in March and review in 6 months time.