

Note of Melksham Area Board Health and Wellbeing Group

Tuesday 3 December 2019 at Melksham Town Hall

1. Introductions:

Councillor Pat Aves, Melksham Area Board (Chairman)

Martin Pain, Melksham Seniors

Martin Elson, Contact the Elderly/ Re-Engage

Ian Cardy, Conigre Mead Nature Reserve

Sue Mortimer, Melksham Community Meals

Louise Clapton, Dorothy House Hospice

Kevin Fairman, Independent Living Centre

Lauren Castle, Mercedes Apps – Wiltshire Council Shared Lives

Peter Dunford – Wiltshire Council/ Melksham Area Board

2. Notes of HWG meeting held on 1 August 2019

Agreed.

3. Project updates:

i) Shared Lives

Lauren Castle and Mercedes Apps from the Shared Lives team at Wiltshire Council outlined a scheme which is recognised as *the* most cost-effective form of social care.

The Shared Lives Service helps people to live as part of a family, where they receive the support or care that they need. The service places adults who have mental health needs or learning disabilities, physical impairments, or are elderly, or those who, for a variety of reasons, cannot manage to live without support.

The service has existed in Wiltshire for over 40 years, where care and support for up to three people is provided in the home of a formally recruited Shared Lives carer. It is a service provision for people unable to live independently due to older age issues, disability, cognitive and sensory impairments, medical needs, genetic conditions or acquired brain injury. Provision can be short term, respite and home from hospital provision, long term and sometimes daytime support.

- You can make referrals to any team member by email or over the phone.

- Pop over and say hi, we have moved to County Hall, floor 2.
- We will go through our referral form with you as well as asking for the customers most recent care assessment being sent to us
- We will gain initial information from you on the level of care your customer needs as well as risks such as being out alone etc. This will help our team determine the carers best suited to support your customer

All of our carers promote people's rights, choices and independence and their customers gain a sense of connectedness and citizenship in their local communities. Customers are matched to a Shared Lives Carer and their family who provide board, lodgings, care and support - but also extended family-based relationships engendering companionship, compassion, understanding and inclusivity in family life

Once a fee is agreed, the funding agreement will be sent to the referrer for funding to be agreed, as well as a start date, and the placement can commence. Once the customer is placed we will visit and create their support plan as well as any risk assessments needed.

Since April 2019 we have begun to use a profiling tool to determine what band customers should be placed in based on their needs. The 3 bands of WEEKLY FEE are:

£371 (paid breaks £12.60)

£445 (paid breaks £16.80)

£571 (paid breaks 24.11)

What is provided to the customer?

- Board and lodgings – 3 meals a day
- Furnished bedroom
- Access to whole of the house (except others bedrooms and any out of bounds areas such as work office etc).

And Support with:

- Personal care
- Taking medication
- Laundry
- Budgeting
- Access to health care and community
- Planning activities
- Inclusivity in family life
- companionship and ongoing relationships.

Customers will contribute:

- £100.05 housing benefit/UC rent element
- £51.90 Utilities payment (for heating, lighting, food and hot water)
- FAB assessed on what they can pay towards their care.

The remaining amount is paid by the customers care team.

For further information Call: 01722 438196 or 01380 826451

Email: sharedlives@wiltshire.gov.uk

Find out more about Shared Lives at: <https://sharedlivesplus.org.uk>

ii) Independent Living Centre

Kevin Fairman, CEO, outlined the work of the Independent Living Centre and specifically on the Benefits Advice Service for which a grant application was being made.

The small charity, incorporated in 1990, is based at Semington in the old hospital and operates across Wiltshire & Bath. Income in 2018-19 was only 97k and this supports 3 employees.

Services provided are:

- Equipment advice & assessments
- Benefits advice
- Landlord services to 4 other charities on site

The ILC provides a comprehensive and impartial benefits service to older and disabled people advising on:

- i) people's entitlement,
- ii) support with completing forms & submitting claims
- iii) assisting with appeals

The service works in concert with the Citizens Advice Bureau and others, not in competition with it. The removal of Legal Aid for benefits advice in 2013 left a huge gap in this area. The ILC benefits service specialises in appeals for disability benefit claims and receives referrals from CAB for this work. It has no statutory funding to provide this service.

191 people in Wiltshire were seen in 2018/19, with 114 to date in 2019/20. Of these, 29 people from the Melksham area were seen in 2018/19, accessing £55k of benefits (see 3 case studies). The service currently operates part-time, 4 days per week, at a cost of £12,000 per annum.

3. Grant applications:

i) Independent Living Centre requesting £ 3,000 towards the running costs of a Benefits Advice Service for older and disabled people
<http://ilc.org.uk/how-we-can-help/> <http://ilc.org.uk/my-story/>

This funding would allow a fifth day of operation and focused marketing to clients in the Melksham area. Applications have also been submitted to the Trowbridge & Westbury Area Boards as these 3 areas are the main focus of this work. The aim is to reduce current waiting times of over 4 weeks and to advertise more widely the support available for families.

The meeting was broadly supportive of the grant application with representatives from the Seniors Forum and Dorothy House (who also part-fund the service) speaking favourably on the application. Questions were asked about value for money, referral mechanisms with Citizens Advice, and about the opportunity to promote the service through the Melksham News to the local community.

It was agreed to support the project, in principle, at a reduced contribution rate and subject to support being forthcoming from the Trowbridge and Westbury Area Boards.

(Post Meeting Note: the Westbury Area Board has agreed to fully fund at £3,000 and the Trowbridge Area Board will consider the matter at a later date as budgets for 2019/20 are fully committed)

ii) Melksham Community Meals requesting £ 1,000 towards set up costs for the service at the Spencer Sports and Social Club
<http://melkshamnews.com/2019/11/20/join-melksham-community-meals-in-their-new-home/>

The Melksham Community Meals service was set up by co-founders Sue Mortimer, Elvey Schofield and Sue Hutchinson in February 2019 as a non-profit making organisation. The co-founders revived the service after Wiltshire Council decided to close the former Melksham Lunch Club in December 2018 as part of budget cuts.

The service offers a place to eat for the local community, including the elderly, vulnerable and isolated and is marketed to local care homes and friendship clubs. The club runs with a team of volunteers, some of whom are vulnerable young people with care needs themselves. It is currently seeking charitable status.

When the Council-funded luncheon club closed and the meals service was set up as a community venture, Wiltshire Council provided essential fixtures and fittings in the kitchen at the Assembly Hall and the Area Board promised a 2 stage grant to enable the project to find its feet. The Town Council provided subsidised hall hire initially but when this ended earlier this year the service decided to seek cheaper premises elsewhere.

The Area Board has been holding a second and final payment of £ 1,000 and now that premises have been found at the Spencer Sport and Social Club, this final contribution can be made towards the costs of removals, set up, promotion and targeted marketing to old and vulnerable client groups.

The group agreed that this payment be made to re-imburse costs incurred.

iii) Melksham Mens Shed requesting £ 300 to run essential health and safety training for members

<https://www.efa-training.co.uk/index.php/courses/emergency-first-aid-at-work>

Course: Emergency First Aid at Work (1 day)

Places Required: 5

Dates: 26th February 2020

Timings: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Cost (Per Person): £60.00+vat

Venue Location: Heywood & Hawkeridge Village Hall, Church Road, Heywood, BA13 4LP

Certification:

On completion of the course students will receive a qualification certificate valid for 3 years issued by EFA Training approved by the First Aid Industry Body (FAIB) or on request prior to the course starting a nationally accredited Ofqual Level 3 RQF award issued by an approved Ofqual organisation Quallsafe awards.

Course content:

Safety
Unconsciousness
Resuscitation/CPR
Control of Bleeding
Choking
First Aid Kits
Eye Injuries
Seizures/Fitting
Safe use of a Defibrillator
Burns & Scalds
Fainting
Shock
Heart Attacks
Recovery Position
Health and Safety Guidance

The group agreed that this training is essential for the health and safety of the Shedders, many of whom are old and working with limited supervision.

4. Funding recommendations to the Melksham Area Board, 6 January 2020

The Health and Wellbeing Group recommends:

- i)** Independent Living Centre be granted £ 1,000 towards the running costs of a Benefits Advice Service for older and disabled people
- ii)** Melksham Community Meals be granted £ 1,000 towards set up costs for the service at the Spencer Sports and Social Club

iii) Melksham Mens Shed be granted £ 300 to run essential health and safety training for members

5. Incorporating the Melksham Health Forum into this Health and Wellbeing Group - implications for membership, future agendas etc

The Melksham Town Council had agreed to discontinue its “Health Forum” with local GPs and to ask the Area Board Health and Wellbeing Group to take on this role as part of its community-area-wide remit.

Through discussion it was established that the purpose of the two groups is subtly different – one considering primary care services and the other wellbeing initiatives – but that there could be merit in joining up these discussions.

An annual forum could address any community concerns with GP services and also help to set the health and wellbeing agenda and priorities for the group and its grants budget. The HWG would probably continue to meet quarterly as now.

One area of mutual interest is around social prescribing and the “Frome Model”. It is known that 1 in 5 doctor appointments are for “non-medical” reasons and that initiatives to reduce loneliness and social isolation are helping to reduce demand on the NHS. Services are increasingly being delivered in the community - such as Leg Club, Falls and Balance Classes, memory cafés, dementia awareness etc.

There would be benefit from bringing together a wider network of professionals, including Care Co-ordinator, Local Area Co-ordinator, Primary Care Network Link Worker, Health Trainer, Carer Support Wiltshire Community Connector, Alzheimer Support Dementia Adviser etc.

The group agreed to invite Dr Jonathan Osborne to attend the next meeting to discuss his views on the best way forward.

6. Any Other Business

Contact the Elderly - now rebranded “Re-Engage” - is looking for more volunteers to help with befriending and to run tea parties for the elderly.

Leg Club – Ian Cardy reported that, whilst the clinical care is excellent, the community feel of the club is waning. Additional volunteer help is required to organise social activities, a newsletter etc.