

Report to	Southern Wiltshire Area Board
Date of Meeting	12/03/2020
Title of Report	Older Peoples Project Fund

Introduction

There are a number of possibilities forming around projects and initiatives relating to this area board's work to support older people. This includes work to make villages more dementia friendly, to raise the profile of existing groups and activities, and an aspiration to facilitate some new experiences for older people drawing on the work of the Celebrating Age Programme that operates in other parts of Wiltshire.

Recommendation

Councillors are asked to earmark £3.5k from the Health and Wellbeing Budget as an 'older people's project fund', to cover costs associated with these future events, initiatives and activities.

Older Peoples projects (2017-2020)

Since agreeing to focus on support for carers, older people's loneliness and isolation and dementia in 2017, the area board has funded a number of projects including the Music for Wellbeing initiative, the Laverstock Memory Group, the 2019 Silver Salisbury outreach project, new gardening groups for sheltered housing schemes, and a circle dancing project for people living with dementia.

Ideally, work to facilitate and support new projects and initiatives would be assisted by an Older People's Champion, and the hope is to source one of these in the new financial year.

Further work required

- To initially run a Health and Wellbeing event in the summer, bringing all groups, volunteers and a good number of older people together to showcase what is already happening and to learn from each other what more might be possible. Preparations for this event will also be informed by discussions held at the 2nd April Our Community Matters Conference.
- To invite expressions of interest from anyone wishing to take up the role of older people's champion.
- To provide support and assistance to local groups and organisations to become more dementia friendly.
- To explore how to bring some of the experiences from the Celebrating Age Programme to the Southern Wiltshire Community Area.

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