



Corsham Community Area Network.

Feedback from Older People's Event and Area Board 20th October 2011.

Over 200 people attended the Information Event held at Corsham Community Centre on 20th October ahead of the Area Board taking advantage of more than 30 display stands which provided information about services and activities available to older people within the local area.

The emphasis was deliberately on positive activities and practical ideas with advice from organisations which included University of the 3rd Age, Pound Arts Centre, Springfield Leisure Centre and Wiltshire Volunteering Service as well as Home Care Providers, Corsham Food Bank and the local Credit Union. The Wiltshire Council Adult Social Care Team were kept very busy with enquiries about Council services and its new strategies for *Older People's Accommodation* and *Living at Home* and local groups such as the already popular Knitting and Crochet Group recruited even more potential members. Stall holders were very pleased with the turnout and all remarked on the positive networking opportunity.

CCAN funded the very popular Slipper Exchange with a total of 122 pairs of slippers exchanged during the day. We also provided refreshments with the help of Corsham Country Market and Corsham and Pickwick Women's Institute Groups. We would like to thank the Corsham Community Centre staff for their help and also the Community Area Manager.

As part of the day, and at the end of the Area Board, participants were encouraged to say what activities they would like to see provided for older people; whether there were any services or facilities they felt were missing; and what would make a difference to them. We received some very good feedback and CCAN has written a short report to highlight the main themes coming out of the event which will be shared with the organisations that took part, the Area Board, Town and Parish Councils, Wiltshire College and others as evidence of what local people are saying. A copy is attached.

As examples of the comments made, more opportunities for informal socialising were popular, and several people mentioned the need for more intellectually stimulating activity. Transport related topics came up often with the most frequent suggestions for improving bus services, including better information and co-ordination as well as better services for evenings and outlying areas. It was most striking though that people felt that they needed better publicity for what is available particularly for people who are not 'on line'.

This is useful and timely evidence ahead of a joint Area Board and Area Partnership Consultation Meeting to be arranged in early 2012 to co-incide with the release of the new Corsham Area Joint

Strategic Assessment (JSA) providing data and evidence of community area performance in all service areas. The meeting will bring together groups, organisations and individuals to review all areas of the Area Community Plan. Invites will be sent out in good time ahead of the meeting.

For more details please contact CCAN through our co-ordinator by email kevingaskinccan@hotmail.co.uk or via our website www.corshamcan.org.uk For those not on line, you can telephone 07954 159995.

FEEDBACK FROM OLDER PEOPLE'S EVENT 20 October 2011

Participants were encouraged to say what activities they would like to see provided for older people; whether there were any services or facilities they felt were missing; and what would make a difference to them. The comments (including some input from stall holders) have been grouped together by theme. They are not ranked in any priority order.

ACTIVITIES

More opportunities for informal socialising were popular, and several people mentioned the need for more intellectually stimulating activity. A number of specific suggestions were made about what's missing at present.

Lunch Clubs & 'afternoon tea' sessions
Exercise classes suitable for older people
Affordable adult education/U3A/mentally stimulating activities
Indoor bowls/ Hand bell ringing/ice skating
Swimming (preferably free & warm)
Volunteering opportunities – ways to put life experience to good use
Help with internet access
More social clubs in Box
Activities for people in wheelchairs

FACILITIES & SERVICES

The take up of 122 free slippers on the day indicated this opportunity was appreciated, with many people looking to exchange the slippers they had collected at the previous 'slipper exchange' event in Corsham about two years before. A steady stream of people also took the opportunity to check their blood pressure. Accommodation for older people featured strongly, with a number of older people coming along to the Area Board presentation afterwards to hear about Wiltshire Council's proposals for accommodation and care in the community.

More care in the community
Block of flats for older people/ centrally located accommodation/different options for accommodation
More NHS dentists
More GPs/better out of hours service to cater for growing number of Older People
Mobile library to stop in town

TRANSPORT

Transport related topics came up often enough to merit a separate section on the topic. Most frequent were suggestions for improving bus services, including better information and co-ordination as well as better services for outlying areas. Some Corsham residents appreciated specifically the town bus and the service into Bath and Chippenham.

Station in Corsham
Better public transport
Co-ordinated bus services (for links to other towns & hospitals/surgeries)
Link between campus and town centre
Transport for evening events
Better services for outlying areas, especially for campus access
Extra bus stop in Pickwick Road and in Newlands road
Parking charge concessions to encourage longer stays

Information and Networking

The organisations who took part reported plenty of interest, making them feel the event was well worthwhile: they were able to raise awareness of what's available locally, disseminate information and answer specific questions. They also appreciated the opportunity to 'network' with the wide range of organisations represented. Items of information that were needed which participants mentioned specifically were:

Information events like this on a regular basis (2 or 3 a year)
Better advertising of services & facilities / good information point for the area
More publicity for activities
Easy access to information NOT on line
Information on opening times of shops (possible TIHC leaflet with small charge)
How to stop telesales & cold callers
How to find good traders
How to know if private dental treatment is worthwhile?
Better publicity for sessions for over 50s
How to check on benefits
How the Link service works