

Voluntary Sector Health Forum

Notes of the FAREHAM & GOSPORT VOLUNTARY SECTOR HEALTH FORUM *Tuesday, 3rd June, Fareham Community Church*

Meeting hosted by Fareham Voluntary Action, attended by representatives of 24 local health groups, Councillor Brian Bayford of the Fareham Health & Wellbeing Board and representatives of the Clinical Commissioning Group for Fareham and Gosport. A list of those who attended is appended to these notes.

1. Introduction

Raymond Hale, Chair of Trustees for Community Action Fareham, opened the meeting and outlined the aims of the Health Forum for those that had not attended previously, before going on to introduce Dr Keith Barnard, Lay Member (Public and Patient Involvement) Governing Body at Fareham & Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group, and explained Dr Barnard's role in acting as liaison between Health Forum members and the CCG. RH also introduced Brenda Woon, Engagement and Partnership Manager for the CCG.

At this, the third meeting, RH outlined the role of the Health Forum in giving local health groups the opportunity to voice their concerns and have these relayed to the CCG.

RH also welcomed Councillor Brian Bayford who had come along to speak about his role in representing the Health and Wellbeing Board for Fareham and Gosport and also at county level.

There followed a 5 minute period for the groups to introduce themselves to each other around each table.

2. The Role of the Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board

Councillor Brian Bayford explained his role as district councillor attending meetings of the Hampshire Health & Wellbeing Board, as well as attending regular meetings for the district. He explained that there were quite a few issues arising from the transfer of government money allocated to support housing, health and disabled living etc, which has now been given to County Councils and forms part of the Better Care Fund. This has made it more difficult for district councils who provide services to their local communities to access the funds and influence how the money is spent. 25% of the fund will be retained by the government and only paid to district councils in 2 years if they meet specific objectives. Meetings are being held to decide what best to spend it on and under discussion at present is support for those released early from hospital and better ways to co-ordinate their care needs etc.

Councillor Bayford also spoke about the work being done at Fareham Community Hospital (FCH) and the role of the Community Health Partnership (CHP), which is responsible for the health service estate at FCH (the building, facilities etc.) with NHS Property Services being responsible for the management of the site and staffing (working with CHP) and Friends of Fareham Community Hospital running blood services, physiotherapy, MRI scans etc. The long awaited medical loan centre at the

FCH, which will be run by the Red Cross, is still not up and running due to revenue issues, but with the hospital having been opened now for 4 years, it is hoped that this will happen soon.

It was asked whether there was any part of this money that could be allocated now to help those struggling after early release from hospital. Keith Barnard stated that the Better Care Fund should be addressing these concerns and that the current situation was totally unacceptable. He pointed out that the CCG has had millions of pounds of its funding taken away by the Better Care Fund which had diminished its ability to help more. Georgina Shane from Two Saints gave an example of people being discharged from hospital with ongoing health problems and sometimes with nowhere to go, and no co-ordinated plan to help, which often resulted in additional cost to the police and other services. Could this money be used more to try and keep people out of hospital in the first place.

Brian Bayford said that the money was in place from April this year, but accessing it would depend on how well the districts perform.

Paul O'Beirne referred to, showing a copy of the summary of, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment from Hampshire Health & Wellbeing Board (HH&WBB) which can be downloaded from the Health Forum website at: www.farehamaction.org.uk/hfgf/

3. Guest speakers from groups

The Forum invited three of the groups in attendance to address the meeting and give a brief summary of the work that they do, and state their two priorities for action by the CCG.

Partners Through Pain (Gosport) & Friends Through Pain (Fareham)

Jane Price from PTP and Elaine Williamson from FTP explained that they were two sister groups which offered support for those in chronic pain. FTP was formed 14 years ago by Brenda Hadfield. The groups meet monthly to socialise and talk about pain management, invite guest speakers from the medical profession and arrange lunches and outings.

Priority 1: **The Pain Service** – whilst they are pleased that the service has been reinstated, there is concern that the referral process is disjointed and protracted. i.e. there is a significant time lag between referral to the GP and a follow up appointment with the pain clinic.

Dr Barnard's response was that he understood their frustration and has noted their concerns. He explained that although his role was to liaise between the CCG and the groups, the recent withdrawal of Dr Tan from the CCG group had meant that they did not currently have a representative GP, but he hoped this would be resolved by the next meeting.

Priority 2: **Continuity of care on release from hospital** – they have experienced patients in tears having been pushed to do too much too soon on leaving hospital, and have often ended up being readmitted. They also flagged up how hard it is to get an appointment quickly with a GP, especially in the Gosport area.

Dr Barnard pointed out that the CCG does not commission GPs, this is

done by NHS England so is outside of the CCGs control, but he acknowledged that there was a shortage of GPs, especially in Gosport. However, there should be a pathway for patients coming out of hospital so that they can bypass the GP.

[Post meeting note: Dr Barnard has informed the Partners Through Pain Group how to pass on their particular concerns to the CCG, who have said they welcome feedback on the new service.]

Harbour Cancer Support Centre (Gosport)

Director Melanie Whitfield-Tinkler introduced the group, which offers support to people throughout the area, not just in Gosport. Support is given to anyone affected by cancer including friends and family. Their main service is a drop in centre which is open 6 days a week. Other services include counselling, befriending, coffee mornings and a special support service for children. They also hold an Art group that has been so successful it now runs 4 times a week. Melanie summarised the growing numbers of people now living longer lives with cancer, and the groups steadily increasing membership (they now see around 180 people a month and are seeing more than a 60% increase in membership year on year). Set up in 2001, the service was originally run by Gosport Voluntary Action on a much smaller scale, but won lottery funding around 10 years ago which has kept them going, but they desperately need donations please!

Priority 1: **More Psychological Support** – Harbour Cancer Support are the only charity offering this kind of support in the area. Those diagnosed with cancer are frequently referred to organisations such as ITalk, but Melanie feels that their approach is too Cognitive Behavioural Therapy based and not suitable for the needs of cancer patients.

Dr Barnard said that he suspected local GPs did not know about Harbour Cancer Support, and whilst he appreciated that ITalk was not ideal, some people did feel it benefitted them. Melanie commented that because counsellors had been removed from GP practices, it made it more difficult to access the correct help.

Priority 2: **Mental Health Support** – they are seeing a lot of people with mental illness because they have no-where else to go, but feel that they cannot offer the right kind of support. There needs to be more provision made for those with mental health issues.

Dr Barnard said that mental health was a focus of attention at the moment within the CCG and is the subject of quarterly quality assurance meetings. They realise that there are concerns about the effectiveness of monitoring mental care services. Part of that process ought to be talking to groups like Harbour Cancer Support though, and he asked Melanie to have a discussion with him after the meeting.

Fareham Diabetes UK Group

Raymond Hale, Chairman of this group, presented some facts about Diabetes types 1 and 2, the symptoms, statistics about the number of those affected (3.2 million people currently diagnosed in the UK with an estimated 850,000 undiagnosed), with around 10,000 people affected in our area, 90% of who have type 2 diabetes. Monthly meetings are held between the Gosport and Fareham groups, where health

professionals come along to give information. The group also raises money and campaigns for better care. There are also 2 charity shops; one in Fareham and one in Gosport.

Priority 1: **High Diabetic Amputation Rate** – it has recently been discovered that Fareham and Gosport have the worst diabetic amputation rate in England at 5.1% per 1000 people affected. This is almost twice the national average. Amputation is often a consequence of a combination of poor blood supply and neuropathy, which means that the person affected cannot feel pain in their legs and feet, and therefore don't know when they have hurt themselves and are therefore more prone to undetected infection.

Dr Barnard is aware that the service is not good and felt that this had been building up over the years, but had started to be addressed last year. The CCG hopes to be able to influence outcomes from now on. There is now a Foot Care Profile document which he felt was key to helping to avoid infection. Also a Multi-Disciplinary Foot Team was formed in April this year; a consultancy team which will aim to try and reduce the numbers of people with infection being admitted to QA. One of the main problems was minor amputations, so a root causal analysis was also part of the planned solution.

RH commented that the problem was not with QA but with local services. Dr Barnard agreed that the podiatry service as it stands is not fit for purpose, and this is being looked at. The CCG are taking this issue very seriously and they hope to add their weight to the building response, although it may take 3 to 5 years to see a positive decline in the amputation rate.

Linda Phear from Fareham Area Active Blind mentioned that visually impaired diabetics are struggling to get to appointments due to lack of appropriate transport and wondered where information is being distributed.

Diana Warburg commented that there is a lack of co-ordination when making follow up on appointments for people between services, sometimes with disastrous consequences. There needs to be more clarity on what the patient should expect to happen in terms of follow up.

Dr Barnard: the CCG are talking to QA about this as it is a very common complaint.

4. Care Navigators

David Miles gave further information on plans for Care Navigators to be put in place in surgeries/clinics. Care Navigators are volunteers who will provide guidance to help patients to access appropriate support groups. Brune Medical Centre are currently piloting the scheme for one year. A bid is currently being prepared to win some funding to help get Navigator schemes up and running. Jane Price from Partners Through Pain mentioned that she had raised the issue of Care Navigators at her local Patient Participation Group recently and the idea was very well received.

DM also highlighted the launch of the Gosport Advice and Information Network (GAIN) which launches on the 4th July this year to increase the awareness of the

public about local groups and sources of support in the Gosport area. Further information can be found at: gain@gosport.cabinet.org.uk

5. Bid: “Supporting Older People and Reducing the Pressure on Hospitals”

We are submitting a bid to win funding of £20,000. Attendees were asked to give two suggestions

a. What would we propose?

b. How could we measure success, so that we could prove that the investment would be worth continuing?

We asked each table to consider these items and to give a key point from each table after part A and then part B.

6. Concluding the meeting

Paul O’Beirne referred to the consultation about the research to be undertaken about the differences in pain relief by paramedics; it is a large scale study and anyone who may be able to contribute to the design of the study should contact the university through Paul O’Beirne

Margo Berry from Portsmouth Osteoporosis Group highlighted the Love Your Bones Conference at the Mountbatten Centre in Portsmouth on 25th June. For further details: <http://www.nos.org.uk/document.doc?id=1472> Please note that the deadline for registration has been extended to 18th June 2014.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, 5th August** at Haven Childrens Centre
Meeting will run Noon to 2.30

Appendices:

List of Attendees

| Org Name | First Name | Surname |
|--|------------|-------------------|
| Alzheimer's Society Portsmouth & District Branch | Lucie | Debenham |
| Brendoncare Club Hampshire | Karen | Seale |
| British Red Cross | Libby | Thomas |
| Fareham Diabetes UK Group | Raymond | Hale |
| Fareham Area Active Blind | Linda | Phear |
| Fareham Autistic Spectrum Support | Diana | Warburg |
| Friends of Fareham Community Hospital | Pat | Gulliford |
| Friends Through Pain | Elaine | Williamson |
| Gosport Older Persons Forum | Suzanne | Pepper |
| Gosport Older Persons Forum | Gillian | Dear |
| Harbour Cancer Support Centre | Melanie | Whitfield-Tinkler |
| Mark Hoban MP | Peter | Kershaw |
| Multiple Sclerosis Society | George | McAleese |
| My Time Active | George | Podd |

| | | |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Open Sight | Jenny | Robinson |
| Parkinsons UK | Alan | Causer |
| Partners Through Pain | Jane | Price |
| Rainbow Centre for Conductive Education | Istvan | Szucs |
| Relate Portsmouth & District | Rachel | Aslet-Clark |
| Shore Leave Haslar | Chris | Robson |
| Stroke Club (Fareham) | Lynda | Young |
| Two Saints | Georgina | Shane |
| Rowans Hospice | Jacquie | Upton |
| League of Friends of the War Memorial Hospital in Gosport | Claire | Lines |
| Help in Bereavement | Rosemary | Mott |
| Help in Bereavement | Sylvia | Pagliari |
| Portsmouth Osteoporosis Group | Margo | Berry |
| Gosport Voluntary Action | David | Miles |
| Gosport Voluntary Action | Margaret | Wilkinson |
| Gosport Voluntary Action | Nicky | Staveley |
| Community Action Fareham | Paul | O'Beirne |
| Community Action Fareham | Linda | Roberts |
| Community Action Fareham | Katie | Maxwell |
| Community Action Fareham | Vivienne | Pugh |
| Clinical Commissioning Group | Dr. Keith | Barnard |
| Clinical Commissioning Group | Brenda | Woon |
| Fareham Borough Council | Cllr Brian | Bayford |