

# Voluntary Sector Health Forum

## Notes of the FAREHAM & GOSPORT VOLUNTARY SECTOR HEALTH FORUM

Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014, 12pm to 2pm, Holy Trinity Church, Fareham

**This was the first meeting. It was attended by 48 people. The attendance and apologies lists are appended**

Raymond Hale, as chair of trustees of Community Action Fareham, opened the meeting and began by welcoming attendees to this inaugural meeting of the Health Forum. He gave a brief explanation of its purpose: a joint venture between Community Action Fareham and Gosport Voluntary Action to provide a voice for local health and disability groups, and through the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group), to facilitate better communication between local groups and health services. Raymond referred to the forum being a mechanism for engagement between the voluntary groups of the two boroughs and the CCG.

### **Introductions**

Paul O'Beirne (Chief Executive of Community Action Fareham) introduced key representatives

*Gosport Voluntary Action:* Margaret Wilkinson (Chair of Trustees) and David Miles (Chief Executive).

*Clinical Commissioning Group:* Richard Samuel (Chief Officer), Brenda Woon, Dr Keith Bernard and Dr Koyih Tan.

*Community Action Fareham:* Vivienne Pugh (Volunteer facilitator of the forum), Jessica Wooldridge (Mobility Services Manager) and Jennie Romicheva (Volunteer Co-ordinator) .

The attendees were at 7 tables, tables were asked to introduce themselves to the their own table only. Lists of attendees were given

### **The Shape of the Voluntary Sector**

Paul O'Beirne outlined the shape of the voluntary sector. He gave copies of a list of voluntary groups that have an interest in people's health and well being. 40 of these have a direct health interest, a further 40 have an interest from a disability perspective and 80 more groups have interests that include care provision, befriending, homelessness and more.

### **About the CCG**

Keith Bernard outlined the formation of the CCG noting that it has not yet been in existence for a whole year. He spoke of the intention to expand the relationship between CCGs and the voluntary sector and improve the CCGs knowledge of the gaps in services.

### **Priorities Exercise**

Attendees had been asked to submit 2 items on behalf of their group in advance of the meeting, to allow the opportunity for discussion and take them forward with the CCGs. Envelopes were distributed containing the submissions that we had received so far, and each table asked to discuss these in their groups, and hopefully find some common themes. These would then be given consideration by the CCG to see how feasible it is to deliver them.

# Voluntary Sector Health Forum

Discussions ensued and there were found to be many common themes emerging:

- Need for better Communication/Liaison between groups and medical practitioners
- Integrating care into health budgets with a commitment to working together.
- Improved disability awareness and access arrangements at surgeries/clinics etc.
- A need for a central information system to signpost patients/carers to organisations that can help.
- Navigators in place specifically to signpost patients to appropriate care.
- Enable people to live well at home by putting them in touch with support services.
- Parking/access at hospitals/health facilities and airports.
- Address the impact of lack of social interaction on Mental health
- A need for pain clinics
- Increased funding

## **How the CCG sees the future**

Richard Samuel from the CCG thanked the group for their input to the meeting, and spoke of the need for GPs and the health sector in general to connect with volunteering groups to ensure those in need don't suffer pain, ignorance and frustration. He acknowledged that there is fragmentation between all services and stated that the CCGs ambition for the next five years is to look at integration of provision of care. The CCG, he said, are keen to adopt the idea of themselves as navigators; signposting those in need to the appropriate services.

RS spoke about a Strategic Group which is currently being set up, and should be operational within the next few weeks. Regarding car parking and patient transport issues, RS said that the CCG have been liaising with Trusts to try and improve the situation by suggesting parking concessions for people accessing services at hospitals etc.

## **Healthwatch**

Madeline Close spoke about Healthwatch Hampshire, which is the new independent consumer champion for health and social care services. The role of Healthwatch is to gather people's real experiences of health and social care services ... good and bad. If you need advice or information about services you can also contact Healthwatch Hampshire. Healthwatch has statutory powers, a seat on the Health and Wellbeing Board and the backing of Healthwatch England. Healthwatch will provide evidence based feedback to commissioners and service providers to influence and challenge. Madeline said that Healthwatch would like to hear about people's experiences of the health and social care services they receive. Madeline is also able to speak to community and voluntary groups about Healthwatch Hampshire.

POB ended with a few words about the *Got it Right Awards*: a service to help community groups ensure that they are operating within their remit and good governance guidelines, and can demonstrate that they offer a public benefit to all within their remit. Groups can contact Jennie Romicheva at Community Action

# Voluntary Sector Health Forum

Fareham for more information.

POB ended by thanking everyone for their enthusiasm and commitment, and for giving their time and contributions to the meeting.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April – 10am at Gosport Voluntary Action**

# Voluntary Sector Health Forum

**Chair:** Paul O'Beirne – Chief Executive, Community Action Fareham  
Raymond Hale – Chair of Trustees, Community Action Fareham

**Attendees:** Please see separate list

**Apologies:** Brenda Hadfield - Friends Through Pain  
Kathryn Kelly - National Childbirth Trust  
Sunil Narayan - Wessex Neurological Centre  
Geoff Philpotts - First Wessex  
Lucie Debenham - Alzheimer's Society  
Jo Eamey – Moving On Project  
Roger Stevens - National Ankylosing Spondylitis Society  
Suzanne Moore – Partners Through Pain  
Richard Soutar – Enable Ability