

# Voluntary Sector Health Forum

## Notes of the FAREHAM & GOSPORT VOLUNTARY SECTOR HEALTH FORUM *Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> August, Haven Early Years Centre*

Meeting hosted by Gosport Voluntary Action, attended by representatives of 28 local health groups and representatives of the Clinical Commissioning Group for Fareham and Gosport. A list of those who attended is appended to these notes.

Richard Samuel, Chief Officer of the South Eastern Hampshire CCG, reiterated how valuable the work of the Health Forum was, and reinforced the CCG's role in listening and responding to the concerns voiced. To this end RS gave a detailed response to the concerns raised by some of the groups at the previous meeting. [Response to Priorities from CCG](#) or download at: <http://tinyurl.com/ccgresponse050814> regarding issues raised at meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

### **GAIN Project**

Angela Gill, Project for GAIN (Gosport Advice and Information Network) gave an update on the progress of the project since its launch on 4<sup>th</sup> July and emphasised its five main areas of work; employment, housing, debt and money management, welfare benefits and health. Angela tabled a questionnaire aimed at residents of Gosport, and a pre-paid envelope for groups to distribute the questionnaire more widely if they can. Angela also mentioned that GAIN would be running free digital workshops in readiness for the introduction of Universal Credit in 2016/2017, and GAIN needs to recruit workshop volunteers and debt/money managers in readiness for this. Also highlighted was a directory which is being developed by CAB and GVA signposting people to local sources of help. For further information please visit: [www.gain-gosport.org.uk](http://www.gain-gosport.org.uk)

### **Shore Leave Haslar**

Chris Robson gave a presentation on the support offered by this community project to Veterans of the armed forces who are living with mental health problems. The project offers horticultural and related activities, but also signposts Veterans to other sources of help, and offer therapy sessions in conjunction with the Veterans Outreach and Support service. Chris also highlighted a lack of awareness, especially amongst the health profession, of the issues affecting Veterans and the different organisations that are available to help them. A directory is needed to signpost GPs etc., she felt. Chris also mentioned a report entitled Honouring the Armed Services Community, issued by the Local Government Information Unit and available at:

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/media/29748/Honouringthearmedservicecommunity.pdf>

Link to slide presentation: [Shore Leave Haslar](#) or download at:

<http://tinyurl.com/slhpres050814>

### **MS Society**

George McAleese gave a brief description of MS (Multiple Sclerosis) as a condition of the central nervous system, caused by damage to the coating around nerve fibres (called myelin). MS affects around 120,000 people in the UK and most people are diagnosed with MS between the ages of 20-40, but it can affect younger and older people too. Roughly three times as many women have MS as men. There are 4 types of MS: relapsing

remitting, secondary progressive, primary progressive and benign, with around 2.5 million people worldwide affected. The local Gosport group has 230 members affected by MS, with no public funding and a need to raise around £35,000 annually to help members with physio costs and to help fill the gap between GPs and care workers. They currently raise money in a number of ways; collections, fundraising, skydiving etc., but would also like to keep a Branch contingency fund and this year hope to donate around £8000 to MS research (money raised from a recent Spinnaker Tower Abseil).

George also highlighted how important MS nursing provision and occupational therapy was and raised a concern that this support would be cut. Currently, there is local funding for 1.5 MS nurses and one Occupational Therapist (funded by HCC). He would like to see the nursing provision increased to 2 members of staff.

Richard Samuel asked a number of questions of George:

Does the MS Society fund these specialist nurses?

*George replied that they were funded by Southern Health. George's overriding concern was that the current MS nursing provision must not be cut, as it is so vital for those living with the condition.*

What was George's experience of the Portsmouth Healthcare Trust since their resident neurologist retired from the QA hospital?

*George replied that communication had declined, in comparison with Wessex, which was excellent.*

Richard promised to link his colleagues in the quality department of the CCG to link up with George. Further information about MS can be found at: [www.mssociety.org.uk](http://www.mssociety.org.uk)

### **British Red Cross**

Libby Thomas, Service Manager - Independent Living at British Red Cross, gave a presentation outlining their work, emphasising that 80% of their funds go towards work in the UK. As well as the work that they do in helping in emergencies such as floods, assisting the statutory fire and rescue services and providing ambulances, they also offer help to displaced persons, provide a drop in service, first aid training and work with youth/schools (humanitarian). There are 18 British Red Cross Mobility Aids depots in Hampshire providing equipment (wheelchairs/commodors etc., free of charge. Libby said that 20,000 mobility aids were provided last year across Hampshire, Surrey and the Isle of Wight (10,000 in Hampshire alone) and 1,500 bits of equipment to residents of Fareham and Gosport. One of the challenges facing them currently is meeting increasing demand for wheelchairs and having to extend loan periods because of longer waiting times for NHS permanent chairs. Also providing wheelchairs for those over 20 stone in weight. Libby also mentioned that a Patient Transport service would be provided from QA in the near future.

Support at home is another service that British Red Cross offer for those discharged from hospital – offering emotional and practical support, especially to low, to moderate needs patients. British Red Cross is investing its own funds in providing this support. Linda Phear asked if Red Cross services currently available at Fareham Health Centre would remain, or whether it would move to Fareham Community Hospital when they opened a facility there? Her concern was the lack of transport to FCH. Libby was unable to say with any certainty at the moment, but appreciated the difficulties with transport, but after discussion with Richard Samuel, it was felt it probably would stay as it serves a different area of the community.

[Link to British Red Cross presentation](#) or use <http://tinyurl.com/BRCpp050814>

**Dr. Keith Barnard**

Mentioned that at the next CCG Quality Committee he would take the opportunity to raise Harbour Cancer Trust's concerns about the lack of mental health provision for cancer patients visiting the centre in Gosport.

With regard to GAIN, he promised to raise the issue of better dissemination of information.

Shore Leave Haslar's main concern was liaison between statutory services to ensure an adequate spread of knowledge so that veterans know what support is available, and Dr. Barnard said that he would feed this back.

MS Society: 230 people that are in touch with the Society in Gosport alone is obviously an issue, with only one full-time and one part-time MS nurse available, and even this provision is under threat. Richard Samuel had already prepared some notes regarding provision of MS nurses and the CCG would try to make sure that the service isn't reduced. They needed to clarify who is responsible for provision of the service. He acknowledged that there did seem to be a gap in the service that MS patients received at QA since Dr Turner (resident neurologist) had retired and that the CCG needed to look at this a little more closely.

British Red Cross: The CCG needs to be aware of the need for the Support at Home service which is essential to help prevent avoidable readmissions. The CCG must also note the importance of maintaining the Red Cross equipment loan service at Fareham Health Centre following the opening of the new service at Fareham Community Hospital.

Dr. Barnard said that he would commit to engaging the governing body, and try and ensure it listens and responds to these concerns.

**Hampshire Health & Wellbeing Board (HHWB)**

Paul introduced Peta Wilkinson from the Enham Trust who is the Voluntary Sector representative on the HHWB, designed to bring together people and partners to modernise health and social care. Peta gave a presentation on the principles, strategies and future plans of the HHWB. Vivienne Pugh asked how the Better Care Fund was split and what proportion was provided by who? Her concern was that there should be a joint endeavour to utilise this money to improve care. Peta confirmed that £80m; £70m was provided by the CCG and £10m from Hampshire County Council for provision across Hampshire, excluding unitary authority areas (Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight).

Jessica Wooldridge commented that the Community Independence Teams did a great job, but were badly understaffed and underfunded.

Linda Phear asked what support there would be for those that lived by themselves, and what reassurance that care plans would be set up before they leave hospital? *Peta: This is happening already.*

Vivienne Pugh asked how this fitted with the Community Care Bill?

*PW: We have yet to respond and engage with that, but it is all about the same imperatives.*

Peta's presentation is linked: [About the Health and Well Being Board](#)

Or link to <http://tinyurl.com/hwwbpres>

### **Hampshire Equality Group**

Andrew Mason presented the work of the Equality Trust and spoke about the disparities in health, wealth and the economy around the world. Andrew's presentation is linked at the end of these Minutes. [Hampshire Equality Group](http://tinyurl.com/hegpres050814) Or download at: <http://tinyurl.com/hegpres050814>

### **Fareham & Gosport CCG Update**

Elizabeth Kerwood, Head of Communications and Engagement for the CCG gave the following update on its consultation and engagement work:

- We have been asking local people for their views on urgent care services in Portsmouth. This is in light of the retendering of the Independent Sector Treatment Centre contract which includes the minor injuries/ailments service at St Mary's, Portsmouth. We know local people use this service and would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey.
- We are planning some engagement work about the falls service. This will cover all three local CCGs (Fareham and Gosport, Portsmouth and South Eastern Hampshire) as they will be reviewing the current service specification to ensure local people receive an equitable, high standard of service. Local people who have had a fall or know someone who has had one will be asked for their views on the service and this feedback will be used to help shape the future specification.
- We are currently working with Portsmouth University to develop our urgent care work. Last year we developed a Urgent Care guide which has had positive feedback and are now exploring how we can get these messages to people using mediums such as social media. The University is supporting us in this work and have included it in their curriculum so students will be developing different ways of promoting which service to use when.
- The Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth (SHIP) Priorities Committee has recently made a recommendation about the treatment of varicose veins and this is due to be considered by the CCG's Governing Body.
- The SHIP Priorities Committee is due to make a recommendation on IVF/Assisted Conception at its next meeting. We will engage with local interested groups and people on this recommendation so the CCG Governing Body can then consider the recommendation in light of local views.
- We are currently developing an Engagement Forward Planner to help us have an ongoing engagement programme around both specific areas of work and the CCGs objectives.
- We are planning to review the website in light of the CCG's Five Year Strategy and objectives and would welcome any feedback on the site that we can consider as part of this. There is an online feedback form on the website which people can use to share their views on how it is currently.
- The CCG will be holding its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday, September 10 from 6.30pm. We will be sharing details of our work during 2013/14 and our plans for the future. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please note that the CCG's AGM is scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> September at Ferneham Hall from 6.30pm until 8.30pm.

### **Portchester Community Association**

Mik Norman spoke about some residual funding they have to support various sports taster sessions in activities such as New Age Kurling, Badminton, Table Tennis, Indoor

Petanque etc., and particularly want to engage with disabled/those with support needs. They also have sports equipment available for free loan for groups to run their own trial sessions including a sports wheelchair. Mik is very happy to visit groups; volunteers are available to assist with group sessions on an expenses basis. For further information contact [admin@portchesterca.org.uk](mailto:admin@portchesterca.org.uk) or go to [www.portchesterca.org.uk](http://www.portchesterca.org.uk)

Next meeting: **Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October** at Fareham Community Church. 12 noon until 2.30pm including lunch.

*Appendices:*

[List of Attendees](#) or download at: <http://tinyurl.com/hfgfattend050814>