

This is an update on Health and Wellbeing matters in the Corsham Community Area provided to organisations and groups that operate or meet in the extended Corsham area that includes Box, Colerne and Lacock. In particular this is directed towards support to the older and more vulnerable people in the community including their carers.

Corsham Community Area Health and Wellbeing Group.

As part of a Wiltshire wide initiative the Corsham Area Board has approved the setting up of a Health and Wellbeing Group to provide a particular focus on the care and support of the older people in our community area. It will operate as a sub group to the Area Board bringing together Health professionals, service commissioners, Town and Parish representatives, voluntary organisations and volunteers and will specifically look to co-ordinate activities that contribute positively to the wellbeing of older people, vulnerable people and their carers. It will have a delegated budget that it will use to promote and build on what is already available across the extended Corsham area. It will look at how the community itself, including the groups and clubs and organisations that meet in the area, can collectively or individually help to better support our older people.

Members of the Corsham Community Area Health and Wellbeing Steering Group.

The Steering Group has met once with a membership comprising an Area Board Councillor, Corsham Community Engagement Manager, Corsham Town Council, Care Co-ordinator Porch Surgery, Community Commissioner Wiltshire Council Adult Care, NHS Wiltshire, Alzheimer's Society, Age UK, HealthWatch Wiltshire, Carers Support and Corsham Churches. The Steering Group will meet regularly, will determine priorities, will recommend projects and funding allocations to the Area Board and will co-opt members as required.

Corsham Community Area Health and Wellbeing Project Worker.

To support the work of the Health and Wellbeing Group the Area Board have appointed Kevin Gaskin as a contact point for the community activity relating to the group and as a lead for agreed projects. Kevin previously worked with the Community Area Partnership so brings established network links and a good knowledge of the community area – he can be contacted by email to kevingaskinccan@hotmail.co.uk or by phone 07954 159995.

Corsham Community Area Health and Wellbeing Network.

Congratulations! You are all part of the wider Health and Wellbeing Network. As attendees of previous consultations and health events in the Corsham area you have a stated interest in the health and wellbeing of older people in our area by virtue of your professional or community links. The aim is to widen this network of interested groups that address or meet a health or wellbeing need, to better understand what is available in the area and to promote it, to support related initiatives throughout the area and to create an effective 'network of networks' for those that provide a service, support group or activity for older people in the Corsham Community Area. If you have an upcoming event, ongoing activity or specific initiative relevant to the Corsham area that you want to promote across the network then please contact Kevin Gaskin.

What facilities, skills or activities do you offer to older people in the community area?

A large part of what we want to achieve in respect of providing for the older and more vulnerable people in the community area is to better document what is already out there. It is not a case of commissioning new services or providing new facilities or funding new activities (although all of those are possible) it is first about knowing what is already provided and how it is being promoted and used. It is clear that from within the Health

organisations, through Town and Parish Councils and to the voluntary sector that no-one has a complete picture of what is already available. So while we bring that together it would be helpful to know what you provide and what we know collectively. A short survey form is attached to this Health and Wellbeing update and it would be appreciated if you could complete this on behalf of your organisation, club or group from the perspective of what you currently or could provide to or for older people across the community area. That might be a particular activity, meeting spaces, skills, training, activities, transport (please) or something that we haven't thought of. Please contact Kevin Gaskin for more information and to send completed survey forms.

Older People's Champion and Neighbourhood contacts.

All community areas are being encouraged to identify and appoint Older People's and Carers Champions to take a lead on identifying and representing the issues, needs and opportunities of older people in their area. It means visiting older people where they meet or live, talking with people individually or in groups or clubs and providing a representative voice for those people at the Area Board level. Julie Bridger has volunteered to help with the role in the Corsham Community Area but we are also looking for other people to act as 'voices' in their local communities. The aim is to have a network of volunteers from across the area that could represent their own village or immediate neighbourhood identifying vulnerable people, local issues and hopefully opportunities for local solutions. If you might be interested or need further information or would like someone to visit your club or group then please contact Kevin Gaskin.

Dementia Friends and Safe Places.

The Steering Group have agreed that an immediate priority across the area is to support and promote current initiatives being taken forward relating to increased awareness and

understanding of dementia. A number of groups are already supporting related work and it is hoped to better co-ordinate this from within the Steering Group aiming to achieve Dementia Friendly status for the whole community area. If you are interested in Dementia as a group or as a business and would like more information then please contact Kevin Gaskin – we are looking for opportunities to hold Dementia Awareness training sessions and to identify ‘safe places’ where people could find help if needed while they are out and about in the area.

Please pass this Health and Wellbeing update on through your own network of contacts or to anyone that you think might be interested.

kind regards

Kevin Gaskin

Corsham Community Area Health and Wellbeing Project
Worker
07954 159995