

Healthwatch Telford & Wrekin

Public Board 1 June 2015 MPH

Older People & Dementia

The biggest issue around this work in Telford has been development and discussion about the new **Information & Advice** tender to be awarded by Telford & Wrekin Council for a value around £200K. The process has been rather confusing and the Council have indicated they would welcome a consortium bid from a number of relevant parties with one partner acting as a lead agency. This is becoming a common form of tender as Council's with restricted budgets and reduced staff - prefer to liaise with one lead partner rather than a range of voluntary agencies. The **Lead Model** does however encourage diversity of provision. Currently the lead partner for the Information & Advice Tender is Telford CAB working with Age UK Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and A4U the disability, benefits and advocacy Charity based at Louise House, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury and MPH. There may be other partners and Heather Osborne (Chief Executive, Age UK STW) **has invited Healthwatch Telford & Wrekin to be a support partner.**

The next Age UK STW Board will be on the 9 June and on the 19th May Age UK STW organised its annual "Afternoon of Entertainment" at the Place in Okengates with over 700 frail and older in the audience to enjoy music, comedians and two local singing groups from Primary Schools. The last Age UK Board in March heard about changes in funding from the Telford CCG reported in a previous report. Age UK STW now has an OQS Quality Mark and has submitted its formal change of name (previously Age Concern) to the Charity Commission.

Telford Council have yet to confirm its plans for funding core work in Telford including benefits work, day centres, living well activities and befriending. Last year Telford provided £5,342 for Benefits Work and Age UK STW raised over £500,000 in benefit claims for Telford's older people.

Shropshire Council have confirmed two years extra funding for the Help at Home service and core services and the Shropshire CCG have worked much more closely with the voluntary sector to frame their commissioning approach – where it fits with CCG priorities they will continue funding and the bidding round is now open.

The Board meeting also received a review & forward plan for the 42 Day Centres in Shropshire and Telford, a report on actions to reduce the Age UK STW current deficit and a report on its Trading activities – which are now being centred in Shrewsbury but covering Telford, work on its Brand Partnership with National Age UK – who operate a number of national fundraising schemes which help local branches. The Older Peoples Assembly are campaigning around the Care Act. A thrust of Age UK STW is "To make Shropshire & Telford a great place to grow old" and work on this is being planned. Plans are also in hand for the annual Llandudno holiday but attempts to replace consultant fundraisers with an in house fund raiser have hit problems.

Dementia

The Dementia Action Alliance are organising a Dementia Friendly Day on Friday 22 May at Blist's Hill Victorian Town at £2.50 per head with a Pub sing along, fish and chips and scones. This is part of a Dementia Week of Activities by the Alliance and the Alzheimer's Society.

The Health Economy Steering Group for Dementia met at the Lantern Shrewsbury on the 20 May but covers Shropshire and Telford. A workshop held on the 18 March and chaired by Dr Jo Leahy had worked on the vision and mission of the group which (with the Councils and CCG's) is responsible for developing and delivering the Dementia Strategies for both areas. The meeting had a further discussion on the Vision:

“Across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin we aim to appropriately resource and deliver sustainable, holistic, person-centred, accessible services in order to promote good health and resilience in people with dementia, their carers and those working in the services. We want to embed a culture across the area that is dementia-friendly, empowering, reflective, learning and compassionate and values those working in and using the services highly”.

The meeting discussed a number of issues to add to the vision including – living well with dementia, providing support and achieving outcomes. A fuller vision will be circulated.

There was a long discussion on refreshing the Dementia Strategy in Telford & Wrekin and the Action Plan for the Shropshire Dementia Strategy. This included discussion about how patients and carers views must be reflected in the Strategy together with the dementia work of partner agencies. Work is being carried out at a West Midlands Network of the Association of Directors of Adult Services and the themes from this needed to be reflected in the Strategy. Mapping and gapping work was being carried out and a draft would be available by the summer with a finalised Strategy ready by September 2015. Issues like early diagnosis and treatment and end of life care needed to be added. It was agreed that common themes would link Shropshire & Telford.

There was also discussion of work on the Dementia Road Map. This was a national initiative that had involved the DOH, Royal College of GP's, Nice and the, Kings Fund. It needed to involve & reflect local GP services and map all the local services for Dementia. Shropshire Partners in Care (SPIC) had taken the lead but there had not been progress. There was discussion of the role of the CCG's in supporting and resourcing strands of work on Dementia.

The next meeting of the Health Economy Group will be 2pm 15 July at William Farr House (Shrewsbury CCG HQ).