

## Healthwatch Telford & Wrekin

### Public Board Meeting – 1 December 2001

#### Report on Older People, Dementia and Mental Health

##### Older People

Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin held its last Board and AGM on the 9 September and agreed new charitable & company articles. Last week it opened its new offices at Meeting Point House and had an information session with fellow Charities (including Healthwatch). It held its Services Committee on the 11 November which considered a review & forward plan for its 30 odd day centres in Telford & Wrekin (although Day Centres in their current form are not favoured by statutory funders) in general trends are too far more referrals of frail older people and those with dementia. The Committee (like all Age UK Committees including Income & Communications & Finance & Audit) agreed new Terms of Reference. This is the season of Age UK Christmas and Volunteer parties. The Committee discussed safeguarding & complaints and potential service risks due to funding pressures from Councils and the Telford CCG. These include:

- Living Well Shropshire
- IT Support Shropshire
- Care Navigators, Telford
- Dementia Support, Telford
- Intergenerational Support Telford.

At its next meeting the Services Committee will discuss the growing issue of waiting lists for services and the growing pressures from the number of older people, frailty & dementia

On a Brighter note Age UK is a partner in the Telford Forge charity shop (ex PC World) and with A4U is opening a charity shop at Riverside, Shrewsbury (where a number of unused shops have been changed to charity shops by Image Match for the Pride Hill/Darwin Centre Company).

Age UK will have its December Board on the 9<sup>th</sup> December and discuss a report by Premises Consultants on moving from its current Mardol, Shrewsbury HQ. It will discuss remedies for budget deficits & redundancies, Trustee matters & codes, Committee reports and a very positive report about its role in Prevention by the London School of Economics.

David has joined the Telford & Wrekin Senior Citizens Forum which has regular meetings and a newsletter and which seeks to be the voice of older people and to lobby for change.

##### Dementia

An event on the Challenge of Dementia Care is to be held from 10 - 3pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> December with the Admiral Nurses and look at “understanding dementia”, “responding to challenging behaviour”, “Communication skills” and “relaxation & care for carers”.

The Health Economy Steering Group on Dementia will next meet on the 7 January from 2-4pm at The NHS/CCG Halesfield. It last met on the 15 October at Shirehall, Shrewsbury and discussed:

- The Better Care Fund
- Stephen Chandler, Head of Adult Care, Shropshire on links with ADASS
- The Butterfly Scheme & £3.5M of investment
- Building a Dementia Road Map
- The Patient Passport
- Carers representation
- The Terms of Reference & role of the Group

The Groups on the two main Dementia committees include Jo Leahey and Sal Riding from the CCG's, the Quality & safeguarding Matron. Shropshire Partners in Care, Age UK, Clinical Service Managers, including from SaTH, South Staffs & Shropshire Trust, Senior Citizens Forum, The Dementia Alliance, both Council's. Alzheimer's Society, Michael Bennet (Better Care).

The Alzheimer's Society (T&W) has a Dementia Support Service, Singing for the Brain at Hollinswood Community Centre, Wellington Dementia Café, Newport Support Group, Telford Support Group at MPH, Cognitive Stimulation and the Crisp Carers Group.

## **Mental Health**

In November to develop our Mental Health plan we met with Zenna Young, CCG Commissioner of Mental Health & Learning Disability Services. We discussed the CCG Report on Castle Lodge which is being revised – when ready it could be a topic from the HWT&W Board. Healthwatch's interest was welcomed and she was very interested in what mental health issues are coming from Speak Out and Engagement. She welcomes evidence from the closure of Castle Lodge and modernisation and on community provision & the impact on Carers. She drew our attention to:

- The experience of Mental Health Outpatient Clinics
- The CCG have asked for an improvement plan for CAMS on access and waiting times
- She feels we should Enter & View the Oak dementia ward and the ready for discharge wards
- To monitor the "Place of Safety" concordat between services

Tina, Kate and David between them go to regular meetings of the CHORUS GROUP at the Redwood Centre which is a lively and vociferous group of Patient/ ex patient area reps with Redwood Staff. SSS Trust has produced a report on Promoting Sexual Wellbeing which is on the vexed issue of single sex or mixed ward provision across the Trust estate. Other issues are user travel costs, real involvement (not tick boxing) around Trust plans and changes, Catering on wards and the role of the group.