

BARWELL AND HOLLYCROFT PPG MINUTES – 10/08/2020

PRESENT: Dr Darren Jackson (DJ) Alan Plumpton (AP) Harry Chesterton (HC) Joan Scott (JS) Bev. Haslam (BH) Sarah Saunders (SS) Tracy Underwood (TU) Peter Leyland (PL) Angeline Jones (AJ) Alison Bennett (AB) Emma Finney (EF) Lynda Plumpton (LP)

APOLOGIES: Georgina Jackson Fiona Meyrick Aarthi Hathie

1. CARERS UPDATE– TRACY UNDERWOOD

- a) Meetings of the Carers Group have continued on zoom.
- b) All are very concerned about the future but are scared to seek help – they feel their situation is not being addressed.
- c) Little support has been offered but they are worried about people coming into their homes.
- d) Problems occur when carers are shielding as well as shielding others – what would happen if they were affected by the virus to those they care for?
- e) Carers need space to get out of the house occasionally – small groups of 6 are meeting safely in a park – this has made a real difference.
- f) The reopening of the Community House is not planned in the near future.
- g) Funds have allowed for a gazebo to be bought and also 6 tablets to allow people to get online
- h) Carers need better support – they save the NHS an awful lot of money.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

DJ – are all of the Carers details on the surgery database of Carers so that the surgery can check on them? TU – possibly not, needs to be cross referenced.

DJ – Is Tracy linked to Social Prescribers? TU – Yes.

AB – Will people get help to use the tablets? AP – Yes this can be arranged via a group called ENRYCH.

2. BEV HASLAM LOCAL AREA CO-ORDINATOR (LAC) – HINCKLEY

- a) All LAC's are still working from home – only go out, in PPE, if all other avenues have been researched.
- b) Work with Food parcels continues as normal
- c) In talks with Hinckley Council to progress a social loneliness group using phone calls.
- d) Hinckley Council has a scheme called Fitness Buddies to help people get out of the home accompanied.
- e) There are lots of mental health concerns.
- f) 8 “recovery workers” are being appointed across the county to aid a return to more normal activities by building back up community groups. One will be allocated to the Hinckley area. This is an evolving post and a new idea. Where they will be based isn't known yet.
- g) There is concern about the future of Community houses.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

SS – Food parcels are less available now as shielding has mostly stopped but a need is still there. Are there only the 3 area food banks now and what happens when the user has had 3 referrals? BH – Yes only 3 food banks now. LAC's and Social Prescribers can help in cases of great need.

AP – people falling through the gaps are a real problem.

3. DR DARREN JACKSON

- a) Covid cases are going up slightly in the area but not worryingly so. The daily death rate is not increasing.

- b) In the next few months if people do not follow the general safety guidance the virus could come back a lot worse.
- c) There is some promising research into a vaccine for Covid-19 but it isn't known how long it is effective for.

Question from PL

*"Sports England recognises that walking is the most popular form of outdoor exercise in England yet the Government has no specific guidance for walking groups. I am a member of such a group, currently inactive, and desperately need guidance that makes sense and is safe. The current guidance clearly states that I should not **"... socialise outdoors in a group of more than six people from different households; gatherings larger than six should only take place if everyone is exclusively from two households or support bubbles"**. Yet on 31st July, The Ramblers Association issued guidance on how to organise group walks of up to 30 people! i.e. potentially 30 different households. Ironically, on the very same day Manchester and surrounding areas had local restrictions applied that prevents anyone meeting anyone from a different household. The reason that these restrictions were imposed was because people were abusing the original rules. What does Dr Jackson think of this conflict of rules and has Dr Jackson any advice?"*

- d) Ramblers groups can meet in groups of up to 30 following all guidelines. It is a valuable activity for people. The Walking for health website has all instructions to be followed. Groups of larger than 6 (from different households) or 30 (from 2 households) in private gardens are not allowed. See Presentation
- e) Flu vaccinations will be essential this year. The Barwell and Hollycroft policy will be:
 - 1) Covid – safe practice will be ensured
 - 2) 5 full day clinics will be held
 - 3) Doctors and nurses will be in full PPE
 - 4) Patients will require face coverings
 - 5) 2 metre distancing will be used
 - 6) Hand gels on entry and exit with a one-way system.

3 minutes per patient will be allocated and patients are asked to come at their allocated time
 Those over 65 and others in special groups will be invited to make appointments, including by text reminder, from the end of August with vaccinations in September and October
 Those 50 – 65 will also be offered flu vaccinations if supplies allow after the first group has been completed.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

DJ – Covid vaccine will be offered first to those who shielded and those at risk it will then depend on the number of vaccines available.

EF – are all practices doing the same? DJ – no, they have rules to follow but how they arrange it is up to each practice.

JS – Will annual reviews continue? DJ – yes, they have started some online, some face to face depending on need. Blood tests are being carried out in reception.

JS – will a flu jab if needed be given at the same time as a visit to the surgery? DJ – yes possibly.

AB – Has shielding finished now? DJ yes, apart from some specific areas.

SS – are face to face consultations now available? Phone screening takes place first then if necessary face to face consultations will happen. This is the case now.

SS – be aware of patients with hearing problems (related to a Centre Surgery patient). DJ – speak to a practice manager if any problems occur in any surgery. **AP to follow up with SS**

PL – phones are taking a long time to answer – over 15 mins. DJ – try to avoid busy times like Monday mornings.

4. ALAN PLUMPTON – BEFRIENDERS

Clients are being helped in Barwell, Earl Shilton, Burbage and Hinckley. New recruits have been supplied by “Next Generation” – the Boroughs Volunteer coordinating service. These are drying up now as people return to work. Issues such as broken heating in Barwell and calls from Newcastle upon Tyne to help with a family member in Barwell have been addressed. The service, working in conjunction with “Dial A Ride” has helped with Food Bank parcels, collection of medication and delivered reading materials. Most importantly they have held 100’s of telephone chats with people who are isolated for one reason or another and made sure they all have someone to talk to at least once a week and in some case 3 times a week. There are still spaces for more telephone Befrienders so contact AP if you or you know of someone who would like to help.

Recent results from CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) survey of people’s experiences of Covid lockdown is that digitally challenged patients found it difficult to access information. With this in mind the Befrienders are taking part in a computer loan pilot scheme – joining with Dial a Ride, and the Charity Enrych who will support the training clients. This will enable GP surgery appointments to be made, on-line shopping and video chats. At the moment they are exploring funding streams. If anybody has any old working tablets or smart phones please let AP know. These can be refurbished by Enrych for reuse

AP attended a number of Webinars (Video conference events).

- One on Bereavement in April. “Campaign to end Loneliness” - Free electronic booklet available on practical support during Bereavement. Contact AP for a copy. Details in Presentation
- One on Mental health issues that the pandemic has created. Details in the presentation. Video consultations are so important - unfortunate to hear that some GP surgeries are not engaging to the same extent as ours.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

JS – people are losing mobility because they are not getting around. AP this issue needs to be addressed. JS – could armchair exercise in small groups be started up?

AOB

Dr Jackson – reminder that the STRONGER TOGETHER website has masses of useful information and contacts for all kinds of issues.-

<https://teamnet.clarity.co.uk/Topics/ViewItem/a99d2cb0-d64f-47ce-a4c2-abb800a87185>

<https://teamnet.clarity.co.uk/Topics/ViewItem/bb20d3a7-ff59-4bbe-a753-aade010b1bf5>

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 9th 6pm probably by zoom.