



**Minutes of Daventry Voluntary and Community Sector Forum
on Friday 8th December 2017, at New Street Centre, Daventry NN11 4BT**

Present

Carella Davies DVC (Chair), Maureen Harding, Aileen Brewer (Children Come First), Tim Cantwell (DDC), Gloria Edwards Davidson (Daventry over 50's forum), Councillor Alan Hills, Cllr Johnnie Amos (Time 2 Talk), Nicola Toms (DVC – Happy at Home Project), Angelina Farrant (Clean and Green project), Jo Thompson, Anna Carroll (Futures Housing), Dave Austin (Job Centre), Graeme Wilson (Northamptonshire Sport), Rebecca Breakwell (ACRE), Carolyn Howe (VIN).

Apologies

Kristy Old (Alzheimer's Society), Debbie Larking (British Red Cross), Dave Berry (CAB), Cllr Chris Millar (DDC), Katey Goodwin (Futures Housing), Sharon Stringer (NCC), Pam Tomalin (Northamptonshire Dyslexia Association), Annette Dunn (Primrose NHS research Group), Mike Lewis (Remap), Peter Kay (SSAFA), Becky Thornton (VIN).

1. Welcome

Carella welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions followed.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (15th September 2017)

These were agreed by all to be a true record and were signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

All matters arising were discharged. No further action required.

4. Guest Speakers:

Jo Thompson and Anna Carroll: Futures Housing Telecare.

Futures have been carrying out surveys and consultations to determine what services their Independent Living clients need as from the end of March 2018, when all regular visiting services will cease apart from an annual consultation visit. The Independent Living service is being cut due to lack of funding. As from the end of March there will only be the Telecare System service available to clients. This has been decided following feedback from the survey results. However, there are a small number (15 to 20 estimated who currently benefit from the Independent Living service but are not on the Telecare system) of vulnerable clients who will need additional support service, and referrals will be made on their behalf in due course to appropriate agencies. The Telecare system is ideal for people wishing to remain living in their own homes. A range of products are available at low cost depending on the needs of the client, including the emergency call pendant and a package with environmental sensors. The most vulnerable are visited every 8 weeks. Those who are high users of the emergency pendant will be picked up by monitoring, and will be visited to ascertain if



additional services are needed. Futures are focussing on helping people stay in their own homes by providing cost effective services.

There were comments from the meeting:

Graeme spoke about the importance of the OCTAGO Fitness programme for elderly people to prevent falls. The **OTAGO Exercise Programme** provides strength and balance classes for Older People. OTAGO is a 12 week programme prescribed and delivered by qualified OTAGO trained instructors. There are 70 Futures sheltered housing schemes across the county which could provide excellent locations to engage elderly people in fitness. Taster sessions can be put on for people to try out the exercise. Graeme's contact: Graeme.Wilson@firstforwellbeing.co.uk

Alan Hills mentioned Bowles as an excellent way for older people to keep active: [Daventry Indoor Bowls Club, Daventry Sports Park, Browns Road, Daventry, NN11 4NS, Tel: 01327 871971](#)

Tim asked whether Sheltered Schemes were encouraged to put on social events – yes, but they arrange it themselves and this varies e.g. Warwick Court are very active.

It can be difficult to make contact with anyone at Sheltered schemes – how do we do this? The contact for anyone wishing to use Sheltered schemes for activities is Katey Goodwin: katey.goodwin@futureshg.co.u, or Jo Thomson: Jo.Thomson@futureshg.co.uk.

Carella thanked Jo and Anna for attending the Forum and informing us about Telecare and other current Futures Housing work .

5. Speaker – Carolyn Howe from VIN:

Carolyn gave a Commsortia Update:

The Social Wellbeing contract with First for Wellbeing, continues to be delivered and developed. Commsortia and VIN have worked with Children and Young peoples organisations to develop a sector approach for support. This has led to the Youth counselling service groups joining Commsortia and wanting to have a joint approach for the Youth counselling services tender. A broader range of VCSE organisations have also joined with a view to working with NHFT to jointly bid for the up coming 0-19 services contract. There are now 50 members from across Northamptonshire. There are different funding streams that Commsortia are currently looking at including working with Goodwill Solutions to access additional ESF Funding (that will need 50% match funding) to help people get back into the job market.

There were comments from the meeting:

Is there an upper limit to the number of members who can join Commsortia ?– not at the present time, however, the current 50 seems manageable.



Gloria had concerns about the level of preventative work being undertaken with young children – is enough being done before it's too late?

For more information please contact David: **Strategic Support & Development Manager**, Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire, 15 St Giles St. Northampton, NN1 1JA, Tel: 01604 637522, Direct Dial: 01604 625790, Email: David.Ward@voluntaryimpact.org.uk, Web: www.voluntaryimpact.org.uk.

More broadly at VIN, Becky Thornton has been working with Stuart Mallet from Nene CCG on an expression of interest to the Cabinet Office for funding to aid the development of Social Prescribing in Northamptonshire.

The Countywide Forum no longer exists, and Carolyn asked for it to be removed from the Forum Agenda. After wide consultation with the VCS it was realised that it was not possible to find a model that all VCS organisations would sign up to. A workshop think-tank was held where it was decided to use other methods to ensure VCS representation/VCS voice/VCS partnerships are required. Carella thanked Carolyn for her updates. VIN will facilitate consultations for specific agendas, as needed, and will draw together the relevant VCS groups to take part.

6. Round table updates (including good news stories)

The Daventry Over 50s forum- Collections have been made for Women's Aid Refuges – Comfort & Joy parcels. The over 50's membership continues to grow.

Children Come First – Maureen explained that since she last attended the Forum they have been offered accommodation at Hill School, which is suitable for their clients with a secure building and play area for the children. There seems to be very little support for parents going through traumatic circumstances, who really need counselling for emotional needs. Advocacy was suggested as a possibility through Total Voice- Contacts: <https://www.voiceability.org/services/northamptonshire> or email totalvoicenorthamptonshire@voiceability.org.

Alan Hills – DDC

The Sports Awards in Daventry on October 19th was for the 15th year running, and was highly successful with over 2,000 people voting this year. All sports are encouraged and 6 people from Daventry went on to win at the Northamptonshire Sports Awards.

There has been an updating of the Southbrook Estate play area following a consultation, with upgraded flooring and new CCTV cameras installed.

Tim Cantwell – DDC

DDC Funding Update

Community Lottery: Gatherwell Ltd. have been appointed to run the lottery and we are currently working with them to build the website. We will be contacting community groups early in the new



year to invite them to a launch event where they can find out more about how the lottery works and sign up. The event will take place on the evening of Tuesday 6th February (venue to be confirmed). The first actual draw scheduled for early April.

VCS Commissioning

The procurement exercise for commissioning community services (ie. welfare advice, community transport, voluntary sector support services, and household good refurbishment and re-use) is complete and we are going to appoint providers next week subject to clearance from our internal auditors.

Community Grants

Our capital grants budget and small project grants budget for 17/18 are fully allocated and only about £2k is left in the one-off community events grant budget. Hopefully, we will be able to supplement the small project grants budget with income from the community lottery (10p from every ticket sale). We have also managed to find an extra £10k for next year's capital grant budget taking this from £60k to £70k.

Foodbank

DDC are working with the Vineyard Church and others to find a suitable alternative location for the Foodbank as it will have to move from its current location in the summer. Everything is happening behind the scenes but so far things are looking promising...

CIL

Following the adoption of CIL in September 2015, DDC has made 20 payments to parish councils worth over £80k. This funding for PCs would not have been forthcoming had we not adopted the CIL, so it is a windfall for them. It can be spent on local infrastructure such as village halls, playing fields and other community assets.

Graeme Wilson - NSport

NSport are developing a new strategy for the county which will mirror Sport England's national strategy, ie. focussing on inactive groups, preventative, and wide-ranging. They are looking for volunteers to help/assist visually impaired runners/athletes.

7. Dates of Future Meetings in 2018 – All on Friday afternoons at 1.00pm to 2.30pm at the New Street Centre NN11 4BT:

16th March 2018

22nd June 2018

21st September 2018

7th December 2018