

Forest Health Forum
Tuesday 3rd March 2015 – 7.00-9.00pm

Present:

Albert Weager - Chair
Jan Baynham - Committee Member
Emily Toomer - Independence Trust Co-ordinator
Hilary Bowen
Jan Baynham - Committee Member
Di Martin - Committee Member (Cinderford Town Council)
Barbara Jenkins
Doug Battersby
Tracy White - Orchard Trust
Scott Ward - Orchard Trust
Chrissie Johnson - Governor Glos Hospital Trust (rep Forest of Dean)
Eileen Elsmore - Coleford Town Council
Terry Hale - Committee Member (Forest of Dean District Council)
Anna Rarity - Health Watch Gloucestershire
Fiona Woodruffe - Crossroads Care
Tim Fretter - Forest Volunteer Action Forum
Lynn Teague - FODCAB Committee Member

Welcome and Introductions

Albert Weager welcomed all attendees and introduced our Speakers

Tracy White and Scott Ward from Orchard Trust. He apologised for the 'perfect storm' that was the February meeting as we were unable to access the building.

Apologies

Jenny Green
Clive Elsmore - Coleford Town Council
Tony Ridgley
Kim Spencer
Sue Henchley
Gill and Brian Cox
Margi Fowler

Notes from December meeting were approved and signed off

Matters Arising

Albert reported that there were no significant matters arising. Ambulance handover now seems to be working more efficiently with 30 minute turn around. If ambulances are kept longer this is because they are waiting for the next call.

Letters have been sent to all Town and Parish Councils requesting donations. An application has been made to The Rotary Club for £250 towards the website.

Chairman's Report

At the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 25th February it was agreed to write to the main providers and services in the Forest with the revised constitution. We would also update contact list of key people.

There is a push to utilise the Community Hospitals more fully by hosting therapies, care services etc. Albert visited the Dilke and spoke to Julie Goodenough and Matron Mandy Hampton to see what the plans were.

Concerns were raised regarding the non-appearance of the Hope For Tomorrow Chemo Bus which has not been visiting the Forest for some time. Albert has liaised with Barbara Watkins (Fundraiser) and is awaiting a response from CEO Dr. Frank Harsent. Albert hopes to set up a meeting to find out what the plans are to address the problem in the future.

Albert attended a meeting of the Urgent Care Governance Group – Bed deficit caused by delay in discharge process. They are about to implement the 'Innovation Programme' with a target to discharge most patients by midday. Barbara Jenkins reported that the queue for scanners was also impeding on the bed shortage. Delay in discharge particularly bad at weekends. Bruce Keogh has recognised that a 7 day working pattern is needed with people working 5 day shift patterns to cover.

Concerns were raised regarding Outpatients overload in the acute hospitals, as they tried to absorb community hospitals outpatient appointments.

Concerns were raised over GP's requests for ambulance through single point of access and felt GP's needed to be more aware of the protocols.

Treasurers report

Balance of £863.92 -

Payments due:

£300 updating website

£72 meeting room charges

Awaiting invoice from Forest Review for advertisement.

Anticipated balance £491.92

Members Report

Jan Baynham has received a letter re Co-Commissioning NHS England allowing CCG's to work more closely with GP's to commission services locally. Albert hopes to have more information at the next meeting. There has been some interesting information in the Kings Fund Report which highlights the 'Risks and Rewards' and how to avoid falling into traps. Albert will invite Martin Gibbs in to talk about this at a future meeting. There was a feeling that this could be 'good news' and may depend on GP action regarding Performance management and working well together.

Healthwatch has been looking into the issue regarding patient appointments, as yet nothing has been heard from Sarah Balkin. Feedback has been requested for the next meeting Anna Rarity (Healthwatch) will take back. Update at next meeting.

Healthwatch are in process of collating GP Patient Surveys. Action for Care has raised concern re English GP's with Welsh patients who may not have access to survey. Albert has taken a batch of surveys to St Briavels Surgery where they have been snapped up. Therefore this should address the issue. More surveys are available if needed,

Albert has been to the Dilke and observed the Blood Transfusion Service which appears to work very well. Patients find it much more convenient to go there for treatment. The Dilke is hosting the service but does not receive funds to do so. This will be taken up with Frank Harsent as to who should fund the service whether it is the GP's or Hospital Trust.

Tim Fretter (FVAF) gave an update on defibrillators which are now situated at the COOPS in Cinderford, Lydney and Coleford. Various training sessions are being held across the Forest to raise awareness. First one in Coleford Town Council offices Wednesday 4th March @ 6.30

Followed by two further sessions in Lydney and Cinderford Town Council Offices on 13th April @6.30.

Communications due to technical issue. We have had problems with the data base. These should be resolved within the next week or two. Minutes and Agenda will be sent out in good time for the next meetings. We will also review and update contact lists including postal one.

Speakers Orchard Trust

The meeting was then handed over to Tracy White and Scott Ward from the Orchard Trust who provided an overview of the services offered including residential care, day care facilities, education programme and wide variety of courses, respite care, supported living and the various projects being run. Scott in particular highlighted the work that goes on at the swim gym and the Rebound programme. The service is accessible by anyone with or without a disability and of any age group; you do not have to have a GP referral. Charges are £25 per hour for one to one sessions in the Swim Gym or Rebound therapy, £12 per hour if taking part in a group session.

Orchard Trust is an independent Charity and holds open days and events to raise funds. Summer Fayre Sunday 26th July @ Stowfield Centre. Café open on 13th March provided by

cookery students. Contact 01594 861137 E: admin@orchard-trust.org.uk for further information.

AOB

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th April at 7.00pm at the West Dean Centre.
Speaker to be confirmed.