

Forest of Dean Health Forum
West Dean Centre, Bream
Tuesday 1st September 2015 – 7.00-9.00pm
Minutes

Present:

Albert Weager – Chair	Linda Vaughan – Secretary
Di Martin – Committee	Doug Battersby
Peggy Jordan	Pat Nixon - FVAF
Barbara Jenkins	Mary Matthews – Bream Ladies Group
Farooq Ismail – 2Gether Trust	Terry Hale – FODDC/Cabinet Member Comm
Julie Burlow – 2 Rivers Housing Comm. Engagement	Margy Fowler – Glos Care Services
Pat Harrison – General Public	Robert Sanderson – General Public
Karen Bridge – Newland Parish Council	Jane Lloyd – Village Agent
Jan Baynham – Committee	Chrissie Johnson –Public Gov Glos Hospitals
Clive Elsmore – FODDC	Eileen Elsmore – Coleford Town Council
Lynn Teague – FoD CAB	

Speakers:

Rich Bennett – Forest of Dean CAB – Welfare Benefits Expert
Phillip Chew – Volunteer Speaker - Macmillan Cancer Support

1. Welcome and Introductions

Albert Weager welcomed everyone and thanked the speakers for coming to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Jenny Green, Anna Rarity, Dr Helen Miller. Dr Peter Jackson, Roger James, Hilary Bowen, Jim Rollinson

3. Speakers

- Phillip Chew – Volunteer Speaker for Macmillan Cancer Support

Phillip explained how he came to be a volunteer speaker and outlined the work and the aims of the Macmillan Service.

His presentation included information about the difference between the three main cancer services:

- Cancer UK – working on a Cure
- Marie Curie – care of the terminally ill
- Macmillan Cancer Support – living with and beyond cancer.

Its aim is to reach and improve lives in a personalised way. He explained the range of support given which includes:

Medical support, Practical support, Emotional Support and Financial Support.

The Macmillan service is also a huge force for change because of its size and its ability to influence decisions. In itself it support over 900 individual cancer self-help and support groups. It has a Free-phone helpline which is manned from 9.00am to 8.00pm Monday to Friday 0808 808 00 00. Volunteers are always welcome and are needed to provide practical help or emotional support. It is not clear how much practical help can be offered in the Forest of Dean.

Cancer voices is an initiative whereby people who have had cancer can share their experiences, with the aim of improving the experience for other cancer sufferers. Cancer Voices get involved in a wide range of opportunities, from reviewing publications and taking part in surveys, to talking about their cancer experience in the community.

To raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, Phillip organising Quizzes and would be happy to organise one locally if anyone is interested either in a pub or other public venue. His contact number is 01452 830028.

Fundraising support number: 0300 1000 200

Website: www.macmillan.org.uk

- Rich Bennett – Welfare Benefits Expert, Forest of Dean Citizen’s Advice Bureau.

Rich explained that his role with cancer patients is funded by the Macmillan Service. He currently has about 130 clients.

He advises them on Disability Living Allowance (DLA) which is not means tested but is being replaced by Personal Independence Payments (PIP). DLA used to be paid up to pension age but is now only available for children 3-16yrs of age. PIP requires a medical assessment which can be done at assessment centres or at home. Problem for the Forest is that the centres are too far away and there are not enough assessors to do the domiciliary work, leaving Foresters with a long waiting time for benefits to be paid.

The components of the payment are:

Daily Living Allowance, Mobility and Mental Capacity.

Employment Support Allowance: - two types, means tested and non means tested which depends on contributions and savings less than £16000.

Attendance Allowance: Over the age of 65 with lower rate for daytime and higher rate for night-time.

Rich explained the system more fully but because of its complexity please contact him directly for more information.

Email: macmillan@fod.cabnet.org.uk

Tel: 01594 826937 ext 203

4. Matters Arising

- OOH Issue.

Patricia Harrison gave an update on the issue with OOH. She reported that she had been to A & E in Cheltenham 10 times in six months because the help her husband needed could not be met in the community. They had been to a meeting with Helen Hodgson who apologised and acknowledged that there were faults in the system. They finally have the care plan in place that should have been there a lot earlier. The Plan has been drawn up by the Rapid Response Team. District Nurses now have the funds to cross the bridge if necessary. Margy Fowler explained that the District Nurses shift pattern would be changing from 7.30am to 10.30pm to 8.00am to 8.00pm as the former pattern was not working for the nurses. Unplanned services would therefore be from 8.00pm to 8.00am.

Mr Sanderson reported a problem when his 94 year old father was staying and needed urgent care to unblock a catheter. He called 111 at 6.30am and was told that the person on call was on the other side of the Severn Bridge and he could not be put through to a doctor or D/N. His only option was to dial 999 at 9.00am but when a paramedic tried to get a D/N he was told that would not be possible because his father was not registered with a practice. This highlighted a “hole” in the system and a need to for more training for 111 staff.

For clarification Rapid Response is available 24hrs by GP referral.

- TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership)

Mark Harper has sent a reply which is attached to the minutes.

5. News Updates and correspondence

- Albert will ask if he can be involved in the Cross Border discussions.
- Buses – few changes to 30, 31 and 23. Buses through Newent to be looked into.
- Doug Battersby attended a debate at Shire Hall about Assisted Dying. A ruling on 11th September will decide if GP's are to be allowed to give lethal doses, which would only be under the ruling of a Judge and would be very limited.
- Coleford Health Centre now have a new GP but list won't open until the doctor is fully operational.

6. Treasurers Report- Balance

Balance at end of financial year July 2015 is £396.41 but we have had a grant of £200 from Cinderford Town Council which was not banked until August, so real balance is £596.41.

7. Members Report Defibrillator sites – Terry reported that the Forest of Dean Cabinet has released £10K to see more defibrillators installed across the district.

- On 19th August Linda and Albert had a very constructive meeting with Ingrid Barker, Chair of Glos Care Services, and Margy Fowler where services for the Forest were discussed. Both Ingrid and Margy are happy to be involved with the Forum in order to keep members up to date with progress and plans.
- Linda and Albert were made very welcome at Great Oaks Hospice on August 26th.
- Linda to attend CCG meeting at Cheltenham Racecourse on 3rd September and Care Services Seminar at Gloucester on 8th September
- Linda and Albert to attend a Forest of Dean Community Health and Care Services engagement at The Main Place Coleford on 25th September.

8. Next meetings:

9. October – AGM – seated Tai Chi
10. November – End of Life Care Team
11. December – Care Services Update

Next meeting AGM 6th October 2015 -7.00pm

If anyone is interested in becoming a committee member please contact the Forum via its email forest.health.forum@outlook.com or by phoning the Chair, Mr Weager on 01594 832518