

Forest of Dean Health Forum
West Dean Centre, Bream
Tuesday 5th December 2017 – 7.00-9.00pm

Minutes

Present :

Di Martin – FODDC/Cinderford Town Council	Linda Vaughan – Secretary
Jim Spiers – Treasurer	Mary Thurston – Friends LDH
S. Longton – Friends LDH	Doug Battersby – Public
Peggy Jordan – Public	Angela Davies – Friends LDH
Jackie Jenkins – Glos Care Services	Hilary Bowen
Roger Sterry – Cinderford TC	Lynn Sterry –Cinderford TC
Mary Matthews – Bream Ladies Group	

1. Welcome and Introductions

Di Martin took the Chair and welcomed attendees and our Speaker Catherine Harris from the Dementia Action Alliance

2. Speaker: Catherine Harris – Dementia Action Alliance

Catherine explained that the aim is to have a Dementia Friendly Community in every city, town or village where people with dementia are understood, respected and supported and confident that they can contribute to community life. Most people with dementia want to remain in their own homes for as long as possible and want and need to continue to feel part of their community.

The Local Dementia Action Alliances are about action via member organisations and communities committing to improve the lives of people with dementia and their carers.

Research suggest that there is a link with heavy drinking and dementia. Retailers are important in making a difference for people living with dementia to maintain independence and a good quality of life. There are courses available to help people understand the symptoms, changes and different types of dementia as well as the person's feelings and emotions. There are examples of how to adapt the environment and communication to support the person with dementia.

Many communities and organisations have signed up to the Dementia Action Alliance and have been actively engaged in making positive changes to help people with dementia and their carers.

Action taken includes: Independent Living equipment and advice available from Forest Sensory Services, animal therapy, accessing activities that people love, training in shops and doctor's surgeries, Memory Group at Woolaston.

The Dementia Action Alliance Team, led by Lena Maller, have devised a board game which Catherine demonstrated. The board game is a fun, interactive way for groups to learn about dementia and which can be loaned out to organisations or groups of people to help with their dementia awareness and knowledge.

There are many on-line courses offering Dementia Training including MOOC and the www.dementiatrainingcentre.co.uk

It was agreed that the Forum should sign up to the Dementia Action Alliance.

To find out more :-

Contact: 01594 812617

Email: Community.engagement@fdean.gov.uk

Catherine was thanked for coming to the meeting and for her very interesting talk.

3. Apologies:

Albert Weager, Katie Norton, Ingrid Barker, Neil Moffatt, Shaun Stammers, Lynn Teague, Steph Bonser, Caroline Smith, Des Gorman.

4. **Matters Arising:** there were no matters arising.

5. News Updates and correspondence - Nil

6. **Chair's report** – there was no chair's report due to the absence of Albert who is still housebound following his accident. The members sent their best wishes for his recovery.

7. **Treasurers Report-** Balance as at 2nd November - £1431.99.

The Forum has recently purchased a projector at a cost of £329.99

8. Members Reports and Questions - Nil

9. **Future meetings:** February 6th – The Barnwood Trust – A Charity which provides integrated services to meet the needs of people with disabilities in Gloucestershire.

Future meetings will include:

- A speaker from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee who will explain their role is scrutinising local NHS policy, planning and impact against local needs and inequalities.
- Artspace/Mindscape – who aim to improve the well-being of people with dementia and their carers.
- Public Health – key focus is reducing inequalities in health between different groups of people and communities.

10. **AOB** - Nil