

**Forest of Dean Health Forum**  
**West Dean Centre, Bream**  
**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 - 7.00-9.00pm**

**Minutes**

**Welcome and Introductions.**

Attendees:

Albert Weager - Chair

Linda Vaughan - Secretary

Jackie Jenkins - GCS - Forest ICT

Doug Battersby

Ruth Wadley - Newent Town Council

Jim Spiers - Treasurer

Hilary Bowen

Mary Thurston - Friends LDH

Chrissie Johnson - Public

**Speaker:** Madeleine Jarrett - Carer Community Builder - Forest of Dean  
Madeleine talked to the Forum about the Connecting Carers Project that she is leading for Carers Gloucestershire.

The Carer Community Builders will make contact with local carers, help people to self-identify (and so reach hidden carers), identify the values, skills, knowledge and connections in each location and support carers to build supportive networks. Carers will be directed to support offered by Carers Gloucestershire, e.g. befriending, support groups and counselling. They will also be supported to access existing community groups.

According to the 2011 census the Forest of Dean had a population of 81,961, there were 14,429 people living with long term limiting illness or disability. There were only 9,668 recorded unpaid carers of which 1,716 were registered with Carers Gloucestershire.

To try to fill this gap the Carers Gloucestershire have set up this project which will give free advice and support from trained advisors who will assess and signpost. Referrals can be made either from home or a community setting. 12 weeks' free counselling is available. For more information contact:

[www.carersgloucestershire.org.uk](http://www.carersgloucestershire.org.uk) Tel: 0300 111 9000 or contact Madeleine by email:

[mjarrett@carersgloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:mjarrett@carersgloucestershire.org.uk)

Young Carers are helped by a different Charity up to the age of 18

[www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk](http://www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk) Tel: 01452 733060

**1. Apologies: Di Martin, Lyn Teague, Mel Preston, Caroline Smith, Des Gorman, Peggy Jordan,**

**2. Matters Arising**

The Focus group looking at the provision of services for the Forest in the light of the new hospital will meet again to discuss the needs of the Forest as a whole.

### **3. News Updates and correspondence**

- Letter to Andrew Seymour re GDASS - Pilot being evaluated by CCG and CC with a view to being extended.
- Albert - Appointed as Lay Member of the Integrated Locality Board.
- Bren McInerney - has received a well-deserved Special Recognition Award from SWASFT.
- Letter from Candace re Minor Injury and Illness units.

The Forum has received a letter from Candace Plouffe, the Chief Operating Officer for Glos Care Services, explain the criteria for the closure of the MIU at Lydney and Dilke at any given time. These temporary closures are due to operational problems relating to safe numbers of staff and the number of patients. A copy of the letter has been sent to all members.

### **4. Chair's report - attached.**

Additional notes:

The emergency Department at GRH has problems coping with the demand and the forum has received reports that there are still difficulties with discharges, especially at the weekends.

The services for complex care at home are being developed with input from Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and a well-being coordinator. This is to help people with complex medical problems stay at home.

The location of health services for the Forest and the implications for Cross-border patients was noted and will be followed up.

### **5. Treasurers Report - Balance of £805.92**

### **6. Members Reports and Questions**

Chrissie Brain has compiled a book of stories told by people with vision loss. It is called "Sight Stories" and will shortly be available from Waterstones and Amazon UK.

Lydbrook Health Centre has had to make the decision to close one afternoon per week again due to staffing problems.

A question was raised about the supply chain for medication, in particular psychiatric medicines. Linda confirmed that her experience in General Practice would indicate that it is not unusual for some medication to be temporarily unavailable.

**7. Future meetings:** It is hoped that Rikki Lane from the Healthy Lifestyles services will come to the next meeting to follow up on the overview given by Sarah Scott from Public Health.

We hope to hold a workshop to gauge the views of people on the services and healthcare that needs to be safeguarded in the Forest.

Chair's Report to Forest of Dean Health Forum 04/12/18

19/11/18

Attended first half of the A&E Delivery Board.

The number of patients being conveyed to ED is increasing.

More patients are going to ED, especially on Mondays.

111 is making increasing use of ambulance call outs.

Concerns were expressed about discharge difficulties particularly on Mondays, as waiting patients could not be admitted. AW challenged the 'system' to increase the rate of weekend discharges utilising the additional funding arriving from central NHS sources.

23/11/18

Attended Forest Locality reference Group meeting with Forum secretary, Linda Vaughan.

Addressed by Ellen Rule – Service Developments.

Andrew Hughes – Primary Care.

Des Gorman – GCs Service mapping

Caroline Smith- NHS long term plan and future consultation engagements

ER Service developments across the Forest embracing new hospital, Urgent Care, Community Wellbeing, rising numbers of teenage type 1 diabetes and self harm.

AH New health centre coming to Cinderford, project led by Assura. Coleford also to get new health centre, with Lydney to follow.

DG Service mapping to ensure everything is connected and configured across the local NHS. Staff are being consulted.

Pro active in home, support for patients with complex care needs utilising existing staff and new additions to manage this new service.

CS long term NHS plan due to be published by the end of 2018.

Period of consultation coming up in the new year, on the new hospital configuration.

AW has been invited to join the Forest ILB as its lay member (accepted).

Albert Weager Chair 04/12/18