

Chair's Report to Forest Health Forum 010322

In February I attended three virtual meetings and visited the NHS Information bus at Lydney, meeting Becky Parish and Caroline Smith.

There was a meeting of the Ageing Well Programme Board on Feb.3rd. and members were updated on the progress in Gloucestershire.

Plans for the implementation of Anticipatory Care were reported as being on track, but not yet ready. These are wide ranging embracing integrated, collaborative working across health and adult social care. A countywide mapping exercise was taking place, with an awareness of possible alignments to Clinical Programme groups.

Enhanced Health in Care Homes (EHCH) showed a need for a focus on recruitment and retention.

Service users were reporting via the voluntary sector that there were communication problems between GPs and hospitals and difficulties navigating the health and care system. This pointed up the growing expectations for people to interact digitally with care systems, leaving non-digitals disadvantaged. Many of these being the very people targeted by the AWPB! Digital is the key thread to workstreams and areas of digital exclusion are being mapped (then what?) Various kinds of virtual wards came to the meeting's attention, all requiring a digital capability, some on a remote basis others offering staff involvement. There is a marked need for a cohesive, inclusive, strategy.

Urgent Community Response, initially for Gloucester and Cheltenham experiencing delay because of staff recruiting and vehicle procurement. Pathways were being developed to manage delirium within the Older Age Psychiatric Service and it was hoped a collaborative with SWAST could be formed to manage falls. A service model design for a 24/7 virtual, hospital at home ward was in development, to complement the two hour urgent response teams. The role of OOH will be VIP.

Some mention was made of funding for isolation in care homes, crimes against the elderly and funding for property maintenance (there might be a pilot project) Pain management also featured. Staying well and avoiding admissions to hospital is a core theme of ageing well with the Better Care Fund being an enabler, at Health and Well Being Board level for the provision of joined up services. Health and Well Being was the focus of a Connectors meeting on Feb. 8th in a presentation by Andrew Embling illustrating a community based outdoors approach, connecting to the environment. Service users at Colliers Court were able to join a gardening group. There were two linked items, elderly people in Cinderford helping each other and ageing without children. Looking at how getting older affects peoples' lives also featured. The meeting on Feb 22nd. Allowed connectors to have an extended, interactive listen to Emily Timmins on her vision for a community newspaper, for which she has initial funding.

Albert Weager Chair 010322