

Chair's Report to Forest of Dean Health Forum 010222

All meetings have been virtual ones.

There have been meetings relating to the Forest Integrated Locality Partnership and Forest Connectors.

Within the ILP there have been discussions on identifying needy Forest residents who might benefit support intervention. These discussions have focused on alcohol and substance abuse and the prevention of type 2 diabetes.

I was part of the discussions/debate on diabetes 2 and these were led by Zoe Hamilton and Forest PCN (Primary Care Network) specialist nurse, Joanne Edginton.

These meetings embraced the underlying rationale, within the context of Population Health Management,(PHM) leading to a change in behaviour. A considerable amount of data was presented at the two meetings which enabled a cohort of identified people, suited to meaningful interventions.

It was recognised that this would be a transformational process against a campaign background on 'Healthy Lifestyles' and a cohort of people was established.

A full meeting of the ILP looked at pain management and we heard from Joy Lavender, CCG Clinical Programme Manager, on pain management. There is a resource pack available and an exercise referral scheme principally for 'pained' people and some 140 have been referred, primarily from Primary Care. Social Prescribing is a good example of this in action. There are links to the Ageing Well Programme and there is also a resource pack for diabetics.

There was also a mention of 'Warmth on Prescription' (early days) and likely beneficiaries from Gloucester and the Forest are being sought .There were also updates on the Community Well Being Service with referrals mainly due to Mental Health. This is linked to a 'Lets Talk' service which aims to boost confidence and self-esteem.

Long term conditions (LTCs), social isolation and loneliness, particularly amongst the elderly, were part of a busy agenda which noted that our two PCN social prescribers had referred 57 children under the age of 16.

My other meetings were on Forest Connectors, managed by FVAF, these have featured news of a Forest Mental Health project run by Simon Price, good discussion and debate on this helping to shape an action research project. We also learned about the Wild Town project being run by the Gloucestershire Wild Life Trust. Cinderford features. The establishment of community hubs came our way as did news of a community newspaper for Tidenham Parish, aimed at connecting communities.

Albert Weager Chair 010222