

**Forest of Dean Health Forum
West Dean Centre
4th February 2020 - 7.00-9.00pm**

Notes

Present:

Patricia Huins
Albert Weager - Chair
Jim Spiers - Treasurer
Angela Potter - Director Strategy GHC
Lyn Sterry - Cinderford TC
Doug Battersby
Jim Simister - Coleford TC
Jackie Jenkins - GHC - ICT's
Mary Matthews

Heather Weager
Linda Vaughan - Secretary
Sylvia Francis - Committee
Brian Pearman - Friends LDH
Di Martin - FODDC/Cinderford TC
Ruth Wadley - Newent TC
Phill Hucks - Orchard Trust
Claire Smeeth - Crossroads Care

Welcome and Introductions.

Speaker: Jackie Frost - Forest Sensory Services

Jackie explained that Forest Sensory Services looks after people with sensory loss throughout the Forest from Newent to Sedbury. People are given practical advice, support and information to guide them as they adjust to the loss of their sight, hearing or speech and also other physical challenges including dementia.

Forest Sensory Services is based at Foxes Bridge in Cinderford and is open Monday to Thursday. The centre is run by Jackie with a part-time assistant and a team of volunteers. The centre provides a wide range of classes and activities to suit everyone and these include:-Balance/exercise, computers, reading, singing, hand-bells, craft, skittles, lunch club and cooking. Braille classes can also be arranged. In the summer the centre organises lot of trips out to garden centres, the seaside, theatres, picnics, and other places of interest. The craft group have made some lovely items which will be available from a shop in Lydney.

The Centre has an Independent Living shop which stocks a very wide range of aids and people are welcome to go and see before they buy, any equipment that is in stock.

Jackie is a trained Eye Care Liaison Officer and people can be put in touch with her by the hospital when appropriate, as she can visit people at home as well as meeting them at the centre. She will advise them on benefits and aids, and can give advice to families with regard to guiding and safety in the home. She also goes into Nursing Homes to train the staff and hold outreach sessions in Lydney, Coleford and Sedbury. If necessary she will signpost people to the appropriate organisation.

The centre will also help with hearing aid cleaning and refitting of batteries. The wait for hearing aid services in Lydney is a lot longer than in Gloucester.

It should be noted that if Forest Sensory Services did not exist, people would have to travel to Gloucester for their help. As it is the RNIB seem keen to centralise their service in GRH but this would disadvantage the people from the Forest.

Jackie does a lot of fund-raising and is currently bidding for a Lottery Grant.

If you or anyone you know would like to see what is available please contact the centre on:
01594 827711

Apologies:

Ruth Keeble, Ingrid Barker, Paul Roberts, Lynn Teague, Hilary Bowen, Mary Thurston

1. Matters Arising from minutes of December 2019 - Nil

2. Updates, Reports and correspondence
 - Age Concern are threatened with having to close their Meals On Wheels service due to lack of funds. The Forum will send a letter of support for this vital service. It was noted that if everyone purchased a council lottery ticket on behalf of Age Concern it would go a long way towards bridging the funding gap. Phill Hucks suggested that an impact assessment should be done because of the far reaching detrimental implications of losing this service.

 - If you would like to be kept informed and have an input into our healthcare, it costs nothing to become a member of Gloucestershire Health and Care. The application form can be found on the website www.ghc.nhs.uk

 - Phill Hucks also informed the meeting that the Orchard Trust has a mini-bus that is available for loan by the community.

3. Treasurers Report - attached - balance £649.16

4. Chair's Report to FoD Health Forum - attached

Albert highlighted various topics of interest from the meetings he had attended and explained how he is trying to find out more about the work being done with families to promote healthy diets. He is also involved with work on Dementia and the way 111 deals with mental health.

- 061219 Attended Crossroads Care AGM.
- 101219 Attended a meeting of the Blood Transfusion Committee. Technical processes and procedures were discussed. It was noted that some junior doctors were not following correct sampling procedures. Community Hospitals were following GHT guidelines. Cell salvage was ongoing.
- 111219 ILP at Great Oaks. 'Make a Difference' an innovatory programme focusing on personalised care, for vulnerable adults, was introduced. It was felt that some re modelling would benefit the programme by making it more transparent and easier to access. Helen Mayhew of BEE ZEE Bodies spoke about the project around childrens' weight loss which involves whole families. Target group - those in highest 2% of BMI's in 5-15 age group.. Referral process with live action beginning Jan. 16th 2020 in Cinderford, then Coleford in April and Lydney in September. Whole family involvement with eighteen places available in each area.
- 161219 Attended A&E delivery Board at Sanger House. Members heard a patient story based on a vulnerable person in the FoD who lived in a bungalow and had not unpacked in ten years. The 'System' had no understanding of the person's life and was not helping. The Multi -disciplinary Team (MDT) assessed and offered medical help, but there were no integrated links with adult Social Care. A 'Big Room' has been developed to allow provider information to be shared and identify crisis points. It was felt that a rapid response team was needed for adult social care. Increasing demand for emergency and urgent care was choking the system and affecting performance. 111 health advisors were getting enhanced support aimed at reducing 111 transfers to 999. Delayed Transfers of Care (DTCOS) were greater than the national average and there were too many stranded patients. Attempts to 'crack' this were having limited success. More money had been made available to ease pressures and enhance service provision.
- 140120 visited Winchcombe enhanced medical centre with Mary Thurston and Steve Longton.
- 160102 Attended a Social Inclusion event at Colliers Court. MH perspective on future priorities, opportunities and challenges.
- 200120 FHF Committee meeting in Bream. Discussed updating the website, children and young people (CYPS). GHFT appointments system.
- 290120 Met Bridget Drew-Spyer, Team leader for MH support in Forest schools (Trailblazer)
- 290120 ILP at Great Oaks. Learned about pilot project in the Forest as GPs and DWP try to manage people back to work. Concerns raised about 'frequent attenders', understanding and working with them to reduce anxieties and perceived needs. There is a pilot scheme in Tewkesbury. There was discussion around personalised care and keeping people out of hospital. This needs a holistic, person centred approach with a continuous cycle of improvement with improved partnership working.

Albert Weager Chair