



Worthing
Dementia Action Alliance

Minutes of Worthing Dementia Action Alliance Steering Group

26th January 2021

Zoom Meeting

	ACTION
Present: Bob Smytherman; Lynda Basford; Lynsey Trans; Julia Johnson; Tim Wilkins; Carol Barber; Helen Tidball; Jacqui Swindells; Karen Partridge; Ian Macara; Tamara Pearson; Poppy; Daisy; Kyle; Roman; Jo Tuck (Healthwatch)	
Welcome & Apologies: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Tamara Pearson, Poppy, Daisy, Kyle, and Roman all from Our Lady of Sion School who joined the group for the first time. Apologies: Dawn Fairbrother; Elena Riseborough;	
Approve Minutes 22nd September 2020: The minutes were approved.	
Matters Arising: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Changing signatories at the bank had not been actioned due to COVID; it was agreed there was no urgency to do this due to the present circumstances.5. Lynsey & Julia had reviewed the web site and are working to refresh the website. There was a little money from advertising that had been put to one side to help off-set some of the cost and Jacqui confirmed that she held some funds that should cover the rest. It was agreed that Julia should be reimbursed for her costs.7. Tim Wilkins confirmed that the virtual Christmas Carol service was very successful and whilst it had not been possible to live-stream it to Facebook there had been over 100 people join the session.8. Bob Smytherman informed the meeting that he had not had any further contact from the Men in Sheds (Worthing) and wasn't sure that they were still meeting. Mental Health Week: <p>Lynsey Trans and Carol Barber confirmed that this had been a great success and that the experience gained</p>	Jacqui Swindells Lynsey Trans Julia Johnson

would help with Dementia Action Week which will probably have to be held virtually as well.

Local Services Update:

Helen Tidball reported that Guildcare had received funding for their Butterfly service. It was hoped that this service will start again in April and Guildcare were currently assessing possible clients. They were also offering the Time out for Carers service but there was little or no take up due to the current pandemic and most vulnerable clients shielding for the foreseeable future.

There was a discussion about the original “gentleman’s” agreement between Age UK and Guildcare regarding who would operate services in Worthing. However, it would seem that this agreement no longer stood and it was felt that Age UK and Guildcare should work together. Also, as the services were commissioned by the County Council, maybe the Commissioners needed to revisit the contracts to prevent people in Worthing missing out on possible services. Lynsey Trans spoke of gaps in services identified by the Task and Finishing Group and Bob Smytherman suggested that a letter be sent to Amanda Jupp, the County Council Cabinet Member for Adults and Health. Jo Tuck from Healthwatch asked that a draft of the letter be sent to her because it may be something Healthwatch could endorse.

Dementia Strategy Update:

Bob Smytherman reported that following the previous correspondence with Amanda Jupp he had been advised that the commissioners accepted that there was a postcode lottery with regard to the provision of Admiral Nurses and that the situation would be resolved soon. Tim Wilkins had not heard anything of this but was sure that there was no new money available to fund the posts of Admiral Nurses. The meeting agreed that the situation should, be monitored.

AGM:

It was agreed that this had been a very successful on-line event and that Sam Allen, The Chief Executive of Sussex NHS Partnership provided a very good presentation. Julia Johnson confirmed that the AGM minutes had been posted onto the web site.

There were no other matters arising.

Dementia Action Week: Lynsey Trans stated that she had not received any information from the Alzheimer’s Society

**Bob
Smytherman
Lynsey Trans**

**Bob
Smytherman**

about the theme for this year's event and Tim Wilkins confirmed that he had no information either. However, Lynsey suggested that the whole event should be planned as an on-line event in the same way as the Mental Health Week. Although the theme was unknown certain events could still be planned such as the Dementia Friends webinar followed by a Q&A session; a sing-a-long with Ric; etc. If the current restrictions were lifted so that people were allowed to meet, face to face events could be arranged at the last moment. This was agreed.

Tam Pearson explained that the Lady of Sion school had space that would be suitable to hold events if allowed and that she was keen to offer their support free of charge. The chairman thanked her for this generous offer. She also mentioned that the children were keen to run a "Repair Shop" event together with people living with dementia and Tim Wilkins thought that the Town Criers might well be interested in this and would help. Men in Sheds might also be involved if they can be contacted. It was agreed that this could be a zoom event live-streamed to Facebook during the Dementia Action Week. Poppy, Daisy, Roman and Kyle thought that this was a good idea. Poppy suggested that they could play music and Roman suggested that a school assembly could be held during which the children could learn about dementia. It was also suggested that the school choir could sing. This was all agreed.

**Lynsey Trans;
Tamara Pearson
Daisy; Poppy;
Kyle; Roman;
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Update from Lynsey Trans:

Lynsey confirmed that she had been busy presenting Dementia Friends Webinars; producing the newsletter; supporting and sign posting carers who had telephoned for help; hosting the regular Sing-and Smile sessions on-line; organising the tablet loan scheme which was on-going. She added that the tablet loan scheme had been very successful with amazing outcomes. 6 tablets were currently being loaned and she was working closely with Carers Support. However, it was very time consuming and Bob Smytherman suggested that maybe now that the scheme had been launched volunteers could be found to actually provide the on-going support for the individual carers. Karen Partridge confirmed that Carers Support had access to funding that may enable carers to purchase tablets for themselves. Lynsey was also still visiting carers and having face-to-face meetings when this was necessary and appropriate.

<p>MAS – A New Way of Working Document A copy of this extensive document had been received from the Sussex NHS Commissioners and Lynda Basford gave a short presentation on the matters that the WDAA were interested in. A copy of her report will be posted onto the web site.</p>	
<p>Inter-Generational Work: Lynsey Trans reported that pre-schoolers had joined the Sing and Smile sessions which had proved very successful and was popular especially since people were missing their own grandchildren. The pre-schoolers want to put on a springtime concert: they will sing; Megan, who performed at the Carol Service, will also sing and Lynsey was hoping other schools would get involved. Daisy, Poppy, Ryan and Roman agreed it would be a good idea to support such an event. Lynsey also mentioned that she had received a pack from the Alzheimer’s Society to enable her to present a Dementia Friends Webinar to children aged 7-11. However, she needed to practice this in front of some children and get their feedback and she asked Daisy, Poppy, Ryan and Roman if they would volunteer to be her guinea pigs and they agreed. This will enable more children to learn about dementia and become Dementia Friends.</p>	<p>Lynsey Trans; Tamara Pearson; Daisy, Poppy, Ryan and Roman</p> <p>Lynsey Trans;</p>
<p>COVID 19 – Vaccinations: Jo Tuck from Healthwatch had kindly agreed to come to the Steering Group to update them on this matter. She admitted that it was a very fast-moving situation and that Healthwatch had decided not to post anymore updates on their web site because more up to date information can be found on the Sussex Health and Care Partnership web site. Some areas are moving faster than others but that all GP surgeries are now covered in West Sussex. She stressed that whilst people should try to take up the first appointment offered for a vaccine, everyone should have a choice so if the location etc is a problem an alternative appointment should be offered. It may result in a few days delay in receiving the vaccination but that is the choice people have. Also, carers should ask to be vaccinated at the same time as the person for whom they are caring. This will save making two trips which is unnecessary. Bob Smytherman confirmed that he is now a vaccination champion and that he will share information with Lynsey so that it can be posted onto the web site. Carol Barber informed Jo Tuck that the confusing communications being issued by government about when the second vaccinations should be given, was having an</p>	

<p>adverse effect on some people with mental health conditions who it seemed can mis-interpreted the various conversations about the gap between vaccinations. They felt that if it didn't seem to matter when vaccinations were given, maybe it didn't matter when their medication should be taken. Jo Tuck was grateful for this information and she stressed that Healthwatch were very interested in how the system was working so welcomed feedback.</p>	
<p>AOB:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was agreed that a small working party should be set up to discuss future funding options and what would happen in the event that funding ran out. Bob Smytherman, Lynda Basford, Jacqui Swindells and Julia Johnson agreed to form this group and would report back to the next Steering Group meeting. 2. Julia Johnson had been informed that the vaccination site at Brighton Racecourse was operating well. 3. Poppy suggested that they could make fidget mats for people living with dementia. This was well received and Lynda Basford confirmed how much her husband had liked his fidget mat. 4. Julia Johnson would like to put a screen shot on to the web site to show how we are engaging with school children and Tam Pearson agreed to check for parental consent <p>The meeting ended at 3.15pm</p>	<p>Working Group</p> <p>Poppy</p> <p>Julia Johnson Tamara Pearson</p>
<p>The next meeting will be held in March and Lynsey Trans will send out a google poll with suggested dates.</p>	