



Beeches Community Board – Supporting Older & Vulnerable People Sub-group

Tuesday 15th October 2020 at 6pm via MS Teams

Meeting Notes and Actions

Present:

Councillor Trevor Egleton – Chairman – Buckinghamshire Council

Councillor Marlene Lewis – Buckinghamshire Council

Councillor Paul Rowley – Farnham Royal Parish Council

Tereena Davies – Age Concern SABE

Dr Chris Herman – Age Concern SABE

David Alder – Chiltern Neighbourhood Watch Representative

Paula Prince – Burnham Resilience Group

Jack Pearce – Beeches Community Board Coordinator – Buckinghamshire Council

Jacqueline Austin-Lavery – Community Links Officer – Buckinghamshire Council

Apologies:

Councillor Matt Bezzant – Buckinghamshire Council

1. Age Concern Slough & Berkshire East – Potential befriending scheme

- Tereena Davies, CEO and Dr Chris Herman, Trustee, of Age Concern Slough and Berkshire East gave the sub-group an overview of the befriending service provided by their organisation in Windsor and Maidenhead. Points raised included the following:
 - The service included visiting residents in their own homes
 - Needs assessments were carried out by trained professionals in residents' homes and all staff and volunteers were fully DBS checked
 - Referrals came from GPs and organisations as well as families
- It was noted that the Burnham Resilience Group was operating a buddy up system calling elderly people in the Burnham area by phone.

- The sub-group agreed that a befriending service would be beneficial to residents in the area, and it was felt that a service which brought professional experience together with volunteers would be preferable. A query was raised over cost given the Board's limited budget, and it was explained in response that due to the bespoke nature of the service it was not possible to provide an estimate of cost without further discussion. It was agreed that this should be explored further with Age Concern to get a clearer set of requirements and an idea of cost.

2. Updates and Actions from previous meeting

- Street Associations: David Alder, Chiltern Neighbourhood Watch, explained that the organisation was looking to encourage residents who had volunteered during the pandemic to join their local Neighbourhood Watch groups. It was noted that Neighbourhood Watch had a broader community aspect, similar to Street Associations, which was not just limited to preventing crime but also reducing isolation and improving community resilience. The sub-group recognised that there were also other groups such as the Stoke Poges Good Neighbour Scheme and Burnham Resilience Group who had a number of volunteers and were working to keep them engaged. It was suggested that these groups could work with Neighbourhood watch and possibly explore forming Street Associations in areas where these did not exist.
- It was noted that plans were in place for colocation of services at a local medical centre, particularly services for elderly residents, and it was suggested that this could be something to explore across the board area.
- Supporting isolated residents through technology and digital training: The Clare Foundation were delivering a scheme to offer devices (Kraydel Connect hubs) to older people which could convert televisions into video calling platforms. It was agreed that this was something which should be explored further with a view to funding the delivery of devices in the Beeches area.
- Dementia initiative: Discussions had taken place with Making Marlow Dementia Friendly (MMDF) to find out how they had taken their project forward. Ideas included providing training for local businesses/organisations to make high streets more accessible. A price for providing training from the Dementia Tour bus had been obtained and this would be £1,050 for one day. It was agreed that this should be explored further.
- Christmas support for isolated residents: It was noted that the Monday Club in Burnham were looking to provide hampers to vulnerable residents at Christmas and the group agreed that this was a good initiative. A roundtable event with organisations across Buckinghamshire was taking place on 23rd October, and any ideas from this event would be fed back to the sub-group to take forward.

3. Discussion

- A discussion took place around safe re-opening of community clubs for older people. It was noted that due to the Covid-19 regulations it was very difficult

for these clubs to run in person, and older people also tended to be less confident in using technology to socialise. It was suggested that as part of a Christmas scheme carol singers could visit isolated residents, perhaps using local parks and open spaces as a base to operate in a socially distanced way. This could build upon the idea of clapping for the NHS which did encourage residents to socialise from their own gardens/doorsteps.

- Hospital transport: With many volunteer drivers in the vulnerable category, there was a shortage of available hospital transport. The Chairman agreed to look into what the Council could provide locally and report back to the sub-group.

4. Actions

- Jack to meet with Age Concern to explore the befriending service and possible costs
- David to send Neighbourhood Watch poster to Jack. Jack to circulate to the sub-group.
- Paul to follow up with Jack on conversations with the PCN and CCG around colocation of services.
- Jack to explore with the Clare Foundation potential for taking the Kraydel Connect project forward in the area. Jack to circulate information to the sub-group.
- Jack to circulate information on dementia training initiative.
- Jack to circulate ideas from the Clare Foundation Christmas initiative roundtable event.
- Trevor to look into options for hospital transport provision.