



High Wycombe Community Board

Mental Health & Community Subgroup Meeting

7th January 2021

Attendees: Julia Wassell, Arif Hussain, Zia Ahmed, Khalil Ahmed, Lesley Clarke, Ann Williams, Jaqueline Roberts, Lewellyn Headley, Ros Hodgson, Lisa Kelly, Charmaine Fyffe, Matt Knight, Megan Cheshire, Fay Ewing

- The Mental Health committee nomination for the Samaritans to receive additional funding was agreed. Feedback from Sally Ward of the Chiltern Samaritans was shared with the group. She thanked them for awarding the funding to promote their service to try and reduce suicide in the High Wycombe area. 24 volunteers have come forward to help support the project from the local Samaritan branch and they will be starting with the Bucks Free Press feature, signage and posters in strategic places in High Wycombe, Fire and Rescue and the Police will be assisting with this. The Wycombe Facebook page will have a sponsored advertisement, but the Wycombe Wanderers element of the bid may be implemented later, due to lockdown being announced and the situation regarding spectators is unclear.
- Sally from the Samaritans sent her apologies for not being at the meeting, but she was doing a shift. They are very pleased to extend their profile in the Wycombe area and extend their reach to a more diverse population. She will be working with the treasurer to monitor the budget and will attend a future meeting to report back on expenditure.
- There is concern regarding the lack of respite for carers in HW, apart from Hairoun Day Centre and Safe Haven there are no places for respite for carers for the elderly. With agreement from the group this will be referred to the Health and Social Care Committee on the 3rd March, so we can try and stimulate some funding to get desperately needed places to relieve carers.
- There is an ongoing consultation about a proposed new mental health centre in Easton Street, High Wycombe it will cover children and adult mental health services and older people which hopes to end the transition difficulties between age groups. If any of the group would like to be involved, an arrangement can be made for their involvement with the consultation.

- Hairoun Older Day Centre require core funding. They are looking for the Community Board to agree to fund a Fund Raising Business Manager, part time for approximately 12 hrs a week which will be £8,000 per annum, the belief is that the post will pay for itself. This position will enable connections to be made and formed and preparation of bids to go forward. Also, they are looking for some assistance/funding for transportation as their mini bus is 13 years old and is unlikely to pass it's MOT this time round. It was thought that once the Fund Raising Business Manager is in post, that through public appeal and other sources they will be able to get the money for the new minibus. It was proposed that a bid be put forward to the main committee for £10,000.
- Youth Enquiry Service provide an all inclusive package for young people aged 13-35 years, who are at risk or homelessness or are homeless which meets their mental health needs through counselling and homelessness needs through supporting them to the right agency and making the application and doing the benefits if necessary. The funding bid which they would like to put forward is for a one year project costed at between £8,000 - £10,000. It was recommended by Cllr Clarke that the bid be for £10,000, the rest of the sub group supported the bid.
- Future plans - Black Mental Health Matters bid and the shortage of respite care within Wycombe town.