

Healthy Ageing Network Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 19th July 2022

Chair: Tessa Notman-Watt, Royal Voluntary Service - Hampshire Supporting You at Home Service
Co-Chair: Mary Robinson, Community Development Manager, BVA



9 organisations attended the July Healthy Ageing VSSP held on 19th July

Each organisation gave updates on their activities and services.

Topics/themes discussed were:

Connect to Support is Hampshire wide and happy to attend events in Basingstoke. If people want to invite them to an event contact Brenda.Pullen@hants.gov.uk
www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk

Basingstoke and District Disability Forum is changing focus to be the voice of the disabled. Unfortunately, they had to call off a launch event, which was in association with Access4All working Group, due to the hot weather. The Disability Awareness Day will continue

BVA Website has been relaunched and organisations will have the opportunity to update the information that BVA hold to create a services directory, which will compliment Connect to Support.

Citizens Advice Hampshire has extended its Home and Well initiative to enable non-NHS organisations to make referrals into the project. The countywide project scheme aims to address the detrimental impact that cold homes, reduced water usage and anxiety due to utility bills can have on people. More information can be found at <https://www.citahants.org/partners/home-and-well/>

Issues raised:

Doctors Appointment: Major difficulties in accessing GP services and doctors' appointments with long waits on the phone. National problem but a major problem in Basingstoke and Deane

Digital Inclusion – Seniors are having a difficult time as more and more services are directing people to go online. There is a growing expectation that everyone should use technology, but many have not used any technology, have limited understanding of how to use digital, limited access to equipment e.g. only have a mobile phone, or a disability that makes it extremely difficult to be able to operate using online services. It is important to recognise this issue and ensure that information is available in non-digital form as well as digital.

How to get literature into GP Waiting rooms – Two organisations stated that they were experiencing difficulties getting information into the GPs. It was acknowledged that this is an issue, and the suggestion was to start with the Practice Manager for each surgery. The other suggestion was to go through the Basingstoke and North Hampshire Social Prescribers Network, which BVA co-ordinate.

Actions being taken forward: BVA to share contact details with attendees

Training – let BVA know about any training that may be useful