



Community Action Group

25th June 2015 14:00

RCCE Offices, Threshelfords Business Park, Feering CO5 9SE

Present:

John Brown (Chair)
Lizzie Rose

Rachel Fahie
Chris Rust

Suzanne Harris

1. **Apologies:** Joy Darby and Philip Wilson
2. **Minutes of previous meeting Thursday 27th November 2014**
These were approved for accuracy
3. **Health and Wellbeing Updates**

Speaker Tom Nutt from Healthwatch joined the meeting for this item to give an update on the organisation's activities. Healthwatch's main aim is to understand the lived experiences of people who use health and social care services in the county and to make sure their voices are heard and responded to.

Tom informed the group that Healthwatch are starting to achieve a real impact, based on two work streams:

- Outreach
- Engagement

The organisation provides project focussed work for patients and service users.

Having recently worked with cancer services/patients at Colchester Hospital a report has been released and so far it has been well received locally and nationally. Tom stated that unless this report was in place then patients would not be heard. Following the findings Tom said that there is a need to convince clinicians with facts and assessment results to promote change for the better. Findings have also enabled Healthwatch to create a leaflet.

A large project that Healthwatch are undertaking involves hospital discharge locally and nationally. A study is currently working in three hospitals:

- Broomfield
- Princess Alexander
- Colchester

The aim is to capture three things:

- The lived experience of hospital discharge for patients and carers
- The challenges for staff trying to provide a seamless discharge experience
- How policies and procedures impact on patient experience

Based on the information Healthwatch capture, they can make recommendations to providers and practitioners about what's good and what's not so good about the quality of care patients and carers are receiving during and after being discharged from hospital.

This involves Interviewing staff and patients equipping them with a communication links for feedback using video & audio dairies.

Carers are also included using the audio diary method by recording their stories, filming and interviews the results are expected by September 2015.

Another novel idea in operation is the use of a London black cab travelling throughout London and Essex border. It is designed and equipped as a travelling recording studio for the public to voice their opinions, and concerns and to capture people's imagination and lived experiences.

Other work streams include:

- Work with Essex girls and boys club – well received and supported.
- Mental health –results will be available in the annual report.

Launched last year – an information service providing signposting for health and social care.

A telephone service is now available for the public to use in the event they do not know where to go for professional advice - it is a support system that does not advise but can help one to find someone who can. No one is turned away and if the answer is not known then it will be found out.

Small service all about raising awareness. Lived experiences guides to care – this uses experiences to help people access services e.g. dementia. This has been supported by the University of Reading.

There is a need for an improved co-ordination of this scheme with a congested service line being an independent service. It is recognised that long term status is important.

Focus on:

- Young People
- Mental Health
- Cancer

No distinction between rural and urban at the moment.

Healthwatch are accountable to ECC as funder and commissioner.

The charity have a board whom report back to ECC every quarter.

Public meetings are advertised to members of Healthwatch and on the website.

No votes are taken by membership.

CR commented that the reports are proactive; the room agreed.

4. Strategic Developments:

LEADER

Essex Rivers – Suzanne informed of two new members of staff to deliver LEADER in the Essex Rivers area, who are based at RCCE: Beverly Davies and Neil Harper.

DEFRA have delivered part of the LEADER training and the full launch is aimed for September 2015.

Essex Rivers and Eastern Plateau are the only LAGs covering Essex with staff in place, which should provide an advantage when the programme is formally launched. The Wool Towns and Heritage Coast LAGs are managed by Suffolk County Council, who will not be recruiting new staff until the contract is received from Defra in August/September.

The Wool Towns and Heritage Coast LAGs are actively seeking new members from the Essex side of their respective areas.

Match funding requirements differ depending on the outcomes of a project, but there is potential for a community project to receive 100% funding.

SOUTH EAST LEP

Suzanne had attended a LEP event in May, at which the SE LEP Rural Strategy had been launched.

The morning session consisted of presentations and the afternoon session broke delegates into two workshops. The event was interesting.

EAFRD funding

The SE LEP put out an early call for applications to this fund, as one of five LEPs authorised to do this. Defra have informed the LEP of the number of applications received (18) but have not provided any information or feedback as to the location or type of projects.

There is uncertainty as to why this information has not been provided, resulting in nowhere to target promotion for the LEP.

The SE LEP is still operating as a single entity, but has devolved powers to three geographic Business Boards

- Essex (Greater Essex Business Board)
- Kent
- East Sussex

OTHER

SH - nothing to add

5. Essex Rural Strategy:

EALC are hosting a morning consultation event on 21st July 2015 in Great Dunmow

Invitations have been sent out to Parish Councils. The event will be interactive and will aim to establish the concerns of local Councillors, what they feel a county Rural Strategy should be supporting, and what they feel Parish Councils can do to help.

Some second tier local authority representatives would also be invited to attend this event.

CR - commented that location maybe an issue for acceptance. She will remind Clerks of the event at the Parish Forum on 14/07/15

JB – shared with meeting that the strategy looks at this in silos and would prefer the cross cutting method. i.e. Looking at ways of involving others from other aspects within the rural community.

SH – Hoping to identify what is important to include in the strategy as CAG.

CR - Drugs and young people – this is a problem in Maldon especially dealers it was decided that the subject drugs will be included.

CR – Is arranging a doorstep event focussing on anti social behaviour/criminal activity in rural areas - young children are being attracted to and the event will be designed to try and steer them away from such activities.

Police have highlighted it is a problem. It also recognised that some parishes may not admit the problem that there is a rise in crime due to drugs and alcohol.

There is a confusion in communities as to what is crime what is anti-social behaviour?

Community safety/Housing/aging population/community assets
(Changing demographics in rural areas))

Community Assets – need to know how the assets can be distributed and also who decides and organises the spend. There is a requirement to police this as some communities experience implications due to lack of knowledge, time and interest.

Agreed on a wider consultation to be released in the coming months.

JB ask if there will be a meeting after 21st July 2015 ? – SH most of consultation going forward will be done electronically the 21st July 2015 is a one off consultation event.

It was advised that the working strategy group to help with questions.

6. Forthcoming Events:

CR – Armed forces day this Saturday at Stow Maries- Free Event.

Braintree Time Bank – this is establishing nicely and continues to encourage the public to think outside the box for exchanging time and talent.

i.e. hate sewing put out a request and do something in return.

51 members 943 hours completed.

Need to encourage the public to think about what they can do and also others who would give their time to help i.e. garden design

Maldon and Colchester also operate a time bank.

The scheme is very Similar to the current Barclays Bank advert which has been helpful as it can encourage people to think about the scheme and then search for their local time bank.

7. AOB:

CR - Social Prescribing network to be launched which is a scheme to be set up that helps patients and doctors. Its aim is to free up doctors time by dealing with the patients emotional and practical needs and recommending services that can help.

The social prescribing project is governed by Mid Essex Living Safe and Well and their Project Board is responsible for delivery of the model. Currently the project reports back to both Mid Essex CCG

The scheme has not been defined publically.

The actual launch date has been delayed due some updates required – a suggestion of October was made.

JB – Requests that this is discussed at the next ERP meeting and also if we can find out a bit more regarding ECC's role with this project (Funding).

8. Date of next meeting:

Date to be confirmed – August 2015