

Community Support – Let’s Get Connected

‘Pop up Presenters’

- Rennie Grove Hospice
- Age UK Dacorum
- Carers in Herts
- Hertswise
- Herts Mind Network
- Herts Independent Living Service
- Park runs
- Pets as Therapy
- Community Transport
- Health and Well Being Board
- GP Patient Groups
- Trans support and information
- Dacorum patient group
- Musical Art

On Wednesday 28 November Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) held an event called ‘Community support: let’s get connected’. The purpose of this event was to bring together members of GP practice patient groups (PPGs) with representatives from a range of community support groups to discuss ways that these groups might work together to:

- **Raise awareness of community groups and the range of support on offer to local people**
- **Discuss ways of how these groups can encourage their members / clients to input into patient groups and influence the way that local health care is provided.**

Around 60 people attended and there were market stalls from Hertbeats, Carers in Hertfordshire, Hospice of St Francis, MIND, Connect Hertfordshire, to name a few.

The event was facilitated by Alison Gardner, a non-executive director on the CCG Board with responsibility for public engagement and started with a display from the Purple All Stars focussing on health messages for people with learning disabilities. The morning continued with short ‘pop ups’ from a list of community groups, giving a flavour of what support there is available within the area.

After lunch and a networking opportunity the group heard about social prescribing, community navigators and Herts Help. In their groups, a case study featuring a referral via Herts Help for ‘food bag and items of essential clothing’ was discussed with suggestions on what support could be offered and how social prescribing would impact on and support those requiring help.

AGENDA		
Time	Activity	Contributor
09.15 – 10.00	Registration and market stalls	All
10.00 – 10.05	Welcome	Alison Gardner
	Introduction and overview of the day	
10.05 – 10.25	Purple All Stars	
10.25 – 12.30	1. Rennie Grove – Jo Clarke 2. Age UK Dacorum – Melanie Clarke 3. Carers in Herts – Paul Innes 4. Hertswise – Adam Tracer 5. Herts Mind Network – Alistair Flowers 6. Herts Independent Living Service – Nicholas Clarke 7. Park Runs – Louise Smith 8. Pets as Therapy – Heather Aylward 9. Community transport Dacorum – Deborah Fogden 10. Health and Well being Board – Wendy Tooke 11. GP practice patient groups (PPGs) – Jill Answorth-Sardmore 12. Carers – Margaret Sharp 13. Trans support and information – Jacqueline Gee	7 minute ‘pop ups’ and questions
	Comments, questions and feedback	
12.30 – 13.00 Sandwich Lunch: market stalls networking		
13.00	Social Prescribing workshop – Tim Antilogoff and Mary Ann Lindsay	All
13.50 – 14.00	Summary	Alison Gardner

Outcomes and actions identified through the meeting:

- Added contacts on distribution lists
- Increased knowledge of support organisations
- Understanding of the importance of PPGs getting information into GP practices to be used to support patients
- Will give publicity to local groups in patient newsletter
- Potential contacts identified for second stage ‘memory’ event in 2019.
- Liaising with practices on contacts made and encouraging sign up to practice park run
- Encourage people to contact community wheels and Age UK regarding transport options.
- Consider volunteering as a driver for community wheels
- Have arranged to talk to carer champions meetings to help increase referrals from health professionals

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Feedback received through our online survey was positive with 17 respondents rating the meeting as either excellent or good. 75% of those who completed the survey would like to be involved in future, similar meetings while 25% said ‘maybe’.

Comments included:

- “Some issues re parking, this may have lowered attendance”
- “Pop up presentations excellent – provided very useful easily digestible information.”
- “It would be wonderful if clinicians were invited to learn more about all the avail services for social prescribing”
- “I believe we should raise some ‘action points’ so that benefits can be achieved.”

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not answered
Meeting Organisation	13	4			
Purple Stars	13	4			
Pop up presentations	9	8			
Market Stalls	5	12			
Afternoon session	4	7	2		
Usefulness of meeting	10	7			
Venue	7	8	1	1	
Catering	7	7	2		
Meeting times	10	7			
Total	78	64	5	1	

