

NORTH COTSWOLDS LOCALITY REFERENCE GROUP

Welcome to the third edition of the North Cotswolds Locality Reference Group Newsletter, which we hope you will find informative. The last meeting was held on 26th September 2018.

The Locality Reference Group was established to consult local people and organisations about the healthcare delivered to people living in the North Cotswold Locality. GP surgery representatives, members of the public, statutory service providers, parish and community groups and representatives from the voluntary sector are invited to attend the quarterly meetings.

Community Matron

With regret the Community Matron (appointed by the Locality to support all 5 practices) has tendered her resignation as she will be relocating out of area with family at the end of November. We are sorry to see her leave, but her input whilst in post has been invaluable to the local community. Interviews for a replacement are planned for 12th November. Inevitably, there will be a break in the service until a new Matron can be appointed, hopefully by mid-February. The Locality will work with the District Nursing team in order to ensure that those patients currently being managed by the service will have the appropriate support in place until the new post-holder is appointed.

Dr Jacquie Williams, GP Lead for Frailty, the Community Matron and the Integrated Care Team Manager have developed a service leaflet to be distributed to all Practices which will give patients an overview of the meaning of frailty and how this service can support their condition.

The Locality are keen to hear about the patient's experience of the Frailty Service in order that they can continue to improve provision to meet patient's needs. A questionnaire has been developed which will be passed to patients by the Community Matron when the patient is ready to 'step down' from the service. The patient will be able to complete the survey online or return it in a freepost envelope.

Dr Hywel Furn Davies confirmed that referrals into the service are by GP only as the workload of the Community Matron needs to be carefully managed. He is hopeful that Locality-wide Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings, which the Locality is working to implement, will be able to support and manage the Locality's most vulnerable and frail

GRCC — Elin Tattersall, Operations Director Community Wellbeing Service

Elin gave a presentation on the Community Wellbeing Service provided by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council. All the local Surgeries are using this service, with fantastic results. Dr Furn Davies commended Elin and her team for their hard work.

IMPROVED ACCESS

Dr Hywel Furn Davies asked the meeting to note that the scheme in North Cotswold is under pressure in part due to the geographical position of practices in the County (rurality) and a shortage of Locum GPs able to fill the additional shifts along with the travel time required.

Delivery of this service is currently under review and the locality GPs are receiving support from the CCG to look at alternative ways to provide access 8:00am-8:00pm 7 days a week. Negotiations are underway with other stakeholders to establish collaborative ways of working and positive discussions are ongoing around Improved Access and the sustainability of the MIIU Department at North Cotswolds Hospital.

Dr Hywel Furn Davies is planning to be able to update the meeting in December.

Integrated Locality Partnerships:

Dr Hywel Furn Davies reported Integrated Locality Partnerships (ILPs) are currently being piloted in 3 Localities – Stroud, Cheltenham and Forest of Dean. The ILPs bring together key partners from across the provider organisations that serve the populations of local communities to consider how together they can improve the delivery of health outcomes for their primary care registered populations and improve the delivery of services that we are all collectively accountable for. These include, but are not exclusive: 2gether Trust, Gloucestershire Care Services, District/Borough Councils and Voluntary & Community Service organisations. The ILPs are the local delivery arm of the Sustainability & Transformation Plan.

It is recognised that we need closer alignment and pooling of resources i.e. staffing and facilities (not necessarily financial) in order to deliver our aspirations. The idea is to introduce ILPs (potentially 5-6) to cover the county - North Cotswold are planning to work with South Cotswold which closely mirrors the footprint of Cotswold District Council. The ILP will meet as a group and the hope is to champion the needs of the Cotswolds population as a whole.

Cotswold Friends—update from Julie Mitchell (Transport Manager)

Julie reported that the Volunteer Car Service is struggling with funding as no uplift has been allocated by Gloucestershire County Council. The service is experiencing a heavy demand with increased urgent requests being made. The CCG were asked to escalate this issue.

Dr Furn Davies offered to speak to the Hospital League of Friends regarding a contribution.

The creative classes funded by Moore Friends and managed by Cotswold Friends are going extremely well. Julie reported that the Bourton Nurture Hub, run by Mental Health Nurses, is also going well. This is also funded by Moore Friends and Cotswolds Friends Transport can arrange transport to and from home. Cotswolds Friends are also running a Work Club on Friday mornings to support people with difficulties getting back to work.

Julie reported that Men in Sheds are a great success both at Moreton and Bourton.

The excellent work done by Cotswolds Friends was acknowledged by all at the meeting.