

## Health Network Event

**Tuesday 25 April 2017 at Haskayne Village Hall**



CVS Trustees and staff and 81 representatives from community, voluntary and statutory organisations as well as the public and private sectors attended this Health Network event. 27 local voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) organisations were given the opportunity to promote their work via an information stand for delegates to browse and there were also plenty of opportunities for networking.

Martin Trengove from WLCVS welcomed everyone to the event and introduced the

Mayor's Consort, Cllr Noel Delaney who said a few words to open the event.

As the event incorporated the CVS AGM, Anita Abram, the Chair of the CVS welcomed people and thanked WLCVS staff and representatives from Haskayne Village Hall for their contributions to the day.

Greg Mitten, Chief Officer of the CVS, also thanked WLCVS trustees and outlined the ongoing struggles faced by the VCFS in the current climate. He went on to outline the role of the CVS as an umbrella body, highlighting the five core areas that make up the work of a CVS:

- Volunteering
- Funding Advice
- Information
- Training
- Partnership

Greg read an open letter from a community member, Paula, who had recently received help from a variety of West Lancashire based VCFS organisations. He then talked about how he had three requests for the local VCFS:

- Join the VCFS leadership group
- Support the VCFS capacity building project
- Work together to encourage commissioners to invest in the local VCFS.

Following the AGM business, the morning programme included contributions from:

**Gareth Dowling** from West Lancs Dementia Action Alliance who explained that one in 14 people over the age of 65 are living with Dementia and that there are around 1500 West Lancashire residents who have a diagnosis of Dementia (this includes people in their 40s and

50s). Gareth described the aims of the Action Alliance and went on to outline the process for joining it and committing to three actions.

**Paul Fairweather** from Lancashire LGBT. Paul explained that members of the LGBT community are more likely to experience a wide range of health issues than the population as a whole.

Paul went on to outline the role of the VCFS in supporting the LGBT community. There are three areas in which the VCFS can support the LGBT community. These are:

- as an employer (through policies)
- as a provider (through specific services, accessibility and monitoring)
- as a supporter (LGBT groups are often small and underfunded)

He explained that working towards and achieving the LGBT Quality Mark enables VCFS organisations to address these three areas and that the VCFS are in a key position to help change attitudes and challenge discrimination.

**Paul Kingan**, West Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group, who talked about the achievements, Work-Plan (STP) and VCFS Investment. Paul explained the benefits of being part of a CCG which serves a relatively small population alongside the challenges of serving a large geographical area which is bordered by 3 other CCGS.

West Lancs CCG is divided into three neighbourhoods:

- Ormskirk/Aughton
- Skelmersdale
- Burscough and the Northern Parishes

He explained that West Lancs CCG has received an increase in funding of £13million, as they now commission Primary Care (GPs). In addition to this, the budget increase year-on-year, but demand for services also increase year-on-year. The overall budget is equivalent to £1455 per head of population per year.

He went on to say that Merseyside and Greater Manchester Hospitals are important to West Lancs so it is important that West Lancs CCG contribute to both Merseyside and Lancashire STP, but with Lancashire taking preference. In Lancashire there are five Local Delivery Plans (LDP).

Paul stressed that the priority for West Lancs CCG is getting services out of hospitals and focusing on the 'Wider Determinants of Health'. This will be achieved through transformation in three areas:

- Community Services – Virgin Care contract to begin 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017
- Addressing Health Inequalities – through initiatives such as Well Skelmersdale
- Primary Care – e.g. extended GP opening hours.

Paul went on to outline key West Lancs CCG initiatives which are contributing to transformation in the areas outlined above.

- Medicine Waste Campaign – West Lancs CCG spend £18million on medicine each year, of this £600K is wasted. £200K has been saved through this campaign so far.
- New Lay Member of West Lancashire CCG – Steve Gross (former Director of Social Care at LCC).

- Patient Participation Groups (PPG)
- Falls Car
- Respiratory Initiative
- Chronic Pain initiative

He then outlined West Lancs CCG Financial Recovery Plan, which aims to see the CCG saving 3% of their overall annual budget.

Finally he announced the West Lancs CCG commitment to invest £100K in West Lancs VCFS organisations each year.

**Dianne Gardner**, Public Health, Lancashire County Council, talked about setting priorities for the West Lancs Health & Wellbeing Partnership. She explained that the West Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Partnership brings together key partners to look at improving health and gave a request for help from those present in setting priorities for the Health and Wellbeing Partnership. Attendees were asked to complete and return the 'West Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Overview – Setting Priorities' form. She explained that these would be discussed at the next meeting of the Partnership.

There were 2 health related questions:

1. Regarding communication between hospitals particularly in relation to medical records. Paul Kingan responded to say that although this remains largely unresolved that communication has improved with the ambulance service working across all hospitals and amongst the specialist services working across the North West e.g. neurology and cancer.
2. A statement relating to patients holding their own health records.

**Guy Simpson**, West Lancs Citizens' Advice Bureau, talked about the West Lancs Digital Health Hub. He said that 18% of people who responded to a recent survey had never seen the internet and that the West Lancs Digital Health Hub has been developed in response to this. The Hub will be supported by trained people who will be available to assist those who are digitally excluded.

He explained that the West Lancs Digital Health Hub is an alliance between:

- A private sector organisation that has provided premises in The Concourse for 2 years
- WLCVS who have sourced funding for computer equipment
- Macmillan (see below)
- Lancashire Adult Learning who will facilitate training courses.

He said that the hub, which is based in the Concourse in Skelmersdale, is available for groups to use it and asked organisations to encourage people to use it.



Following lunch, **Caroline Flynn and Jen Burns** from the WL Macmillan Information & Support Centre gave their presentation.

Jen outlined the survivorship programme and highlighted the benefits of exercise in reducing the risks of both primary and secondary diagnosis of cancer. She said that there is a Macmillan Health and Wellbeing Event to be held at West Lancs College from 2-4pm on 30 May 2017.

Caroline continued the presentation and said that in addition to the Information & Support Centre, Macmillan also have information points at Tarleton, Skelmersdale and Ormskirk Libraries; Drop-ins at Tarleton Health Centre and Parbold Health Centre; and information boards at Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals, PULSE and a private business in Skelmersdale. She said that they are currently working with six volunteers.

**Mary Whitby from Pancreatic Cancer Awareness** gave a brief presentation about raising awareness of pancreatic cancer. She explained that pancreatic cancer survivorship rates have only increased from 3% to 5% since the 1970s and stated that the average age of diagnosis for Pancreatic Cancer is 72.

She highlighted the symptoms of Pancreatic Cancer:

- Pain in upper abdomen which extends round to the back.
- Unexplained Weight Loss
- Diabetes
- Changes to Bowel Habit

She then outlined the ways that people can get involved, which includes raising awareness of the symptoms. She stated that there is free learning module for GPs.

The final speaker of the day was **Rebecca Mason** from the **Heritage Lottery Fund**. Rebecca explained that West Lancashire has a low take-up for HLF funding and she made attendees aware that Heritage Lottery Funding extends much further than built heritage. She talked about how there are currently 35 live programmes ranging from £3K to multi-millions of pounds and gave some examples of projects that have been funded. She also said that the Our Heritage programme can fund individuals if the public benefit will out way the private gain. She clarified that organisations don't have to be registered charities to apply. More information can be found at [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

Yvonne Taylor from Lloyds Bank Foundation was due to speak at the event but due to ill-health she had been unable to.

Greg closed the meeting by thanking all the staff, trustees and members of the VCFS. Particular note was given to Anita as WLCVS Chair and Dianne Cull of Haskayne Village Hall for providing the venue for the AGM.

All the presentations and photos will be available to view on the West Lancs CVS website – <http://www.wlcvs.org/health-network-3/#tab-id-4>

## **Feedback**

The event received some very positive feedback which included:

- “Excellent networking opportunity to share and learn.”
- “V good event - lots of helpful / useful content and good networking opportunities. Thank you to WLCVS for all your hard work in organising this!”
- “A well organised and presented event. I shall come again next year.”
- “The agenda was ambitious but well-constructed and well managed.”