



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 27 November 2018

Subject: HANTS & IOW SOCIAL PRESCRIBING NETWORK MEETING – Monday 29th October 2018

Community First and Gosport Voluntary Action joined forces to enable the 2018 Hants & IOW Social Prescribing Network (including Southampton & Portsmouth) to take place in Fareham on 29 October.

The meeting began with networking and then Tim Houghton (CEO Community First) shared his thoughts on how Voluntary and Social Enterprise organisations can work more effectively together. He highlighted a few of the 50 to 60 Social Prescribing Projects countywide and the need for leadership & co-ordination to maximise funding and realise opportunities. He mentioned Vanguard and the new care models and priorities going forward. Tim also discussed the gaps, duplication and the challenges of rural areas - suggesting a Social Prescribing map for Hampshire might be a valuable resource.

Elizabeth Kerwood (Head of Communications and Engagement, Fareham & Gosport, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and South Eastern Hampshire CCGs) explained how the five Hampshire CCG's operate and are working collaboratively with their districts. They are responsible for health & care services countywide with a £5 million budget for the voluntary sector. Elizabeth explained how structures are changing too.

There were lots of questions which was followed by a round the table activity collated by Nicky Staveley (CO Gosport Voluntary Action). Attendees asked about the meaning of Social Prescribing, discussed impact & evaluation, the value of sharing learning & best practice, a virtual network for documents, learning what each organisation does and potentially, joint funding bids including the NHS going forward.

It was agreed that the next network meeting will be held in Basingstoke in February 2019. To find out more please contact Lin Dudman, Community First - Lin.Dudman@cfirst.org.uk.

From: Angela Gill (Surgery Signposting Service Project Manager, Gosport Voluntary Action)

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Photos – Tim Houghton CEO Community First presenting:



Notes for Editors

1. Communities First Wessex (known as Community First) provides support and advice to local voluntary and community groups, charities and social enterprises in order to build their capacity and ensure a thriving and successful voluntary sector across East Hampshire, Fareham, Havant and Winchester. We also provide a one stop shop for all aspects of volunteering; helping recruit and place volunteers throughout our local communities and providing specialist training for voluntary organisations.

Community First is the trading name of Communities First Wessex

Registered Charity no 1147527 Company Registered in England and Wales 08071971 at
3000a Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 7FX



2. Communities First Wessex also delivers critical community services including:
 - a. Community Transport and Dial a Ride in East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Winchester and Basingstoke
 - b. Shopmobility in Fareham, Havant and Chichester, and Winchester
 - c. Health and wellbeing services including surgery signposting with GP surgeries in Bordon, Fareham and Waterlooville, Walking 4 Health in Fareham, and a Home Help and a Gardening Service for vulnerable people in Fareham.
 - d. Support for Community Buildings and managing agents for Leigh Park Community Centre in Havant
 - e. Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling services
 - f. Specialist youth work including support for young people's mental health
 - g. Work and skills based training and support for unemployed people
 - h. Supported volunteering for people with a range of needs including mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, and those with a physical or mild learning disability.

3. Communities First Wessex employs 116 staff, has more than 80 regular volunteers and has a turnover of £2.6m. Its main sources of income are local authority and government grants and contracts, Big Lottery Fund and a range of charitable trusts.

4. Gosport Voluntary Action (GVA), a registered Charity, is the umbrella body (Council of Voluntary Action) for Gosport and surrounding areas. It provides help and support to over 200 local, voluntary and community groups in the Borough, that need help with governance issues, finding funding, recruiting and managing volunteers and accessing training. It also represents member group interests at a wide range of strategic meetings.

5. For further information contact:
Tim Houghton, Chief Executive, Communities First Wessex 07467 941018 or email tim.houghton@cfirst.org.uk
Nicky Staveley, Chief Officer, Gosport Voluntary Action - ChiefOfficer@gva.org.uk.

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