

Health and Wellbeing Board

17 April 2019

One Walsall Partner Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To highlight the work of One Walsall and the voluntary and community sector in contributing to the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board during 2018/19.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the board notes the content of the report and;
- 2.2. Discusses ways in which further support, or greater partnership working, can be extended to the voluntary and community sector to help deliver priorities in future.

3. Report detail

Social Prescribing Programme

- 3.1. One Walsall's Social Prescribing service, co-commissioned by Walsall CCG and Walsall Council, commenced in March.
- 3.2. The premise of social prescribing is simple; a person's health is often not affected by medical conditions alone; health and wellbeing can be determined by a range of social, economic and environmental factors (such as loneliness, debt problems, substance misuse etc.). The One Walsall Social Prescribing Service will provide a means of enabling health and care professionals to refer people to a range of non-clinical services or activities delivered in the community by VCS organisations. This in turn reduces the pressure on GP services for non-medical related appointments and alleviates acute care of preventable admissions.
- 3.3. By connecting individuals with services in their local community, there is an increased opportunity to help the individual become an active and engaged member and sustain positive changes in their lives. The theory of change is to support individuals to move from dependency and disconnectedness, to interdependency and connectedness with their community.
- 3.4. Walsall has embedded three Community Link Officers into the multidisciplinary Place Based Health and Care Teams in the North and West Localities, and the Integrated Intermediate Care Service currently based at Hollybank House. A fourth officer is currently being recruited. The service currently focuses on adults with two or more complex/long-term health/mental health conditions. However, as Walsall Together continues to develop, there is scope to extend this to a wider cohort, including less complex needs and children and young people, in line with the proposals in the comprehensive Universal Personalised Care model.
- 3.5. The service offers support beyond signposting or directory of activities. One Walsall CLOs provide advice and guidance for the individual to identify the best opportunity for them and will arrange follow up visits and calls to ensure that the patient remains engaged and satisfied with the service. Depending on the

Support Groups. This was to be achieved through the development and delivery of facilitator training for group leaders, delivered in a workshop format.

- 3.11. Workshops were led by One Walsall and counterpart organisations across the sub-region with 2 sessions in each of Wolverhampton (WVSC), Walsall (One Walsall), Sandwell (SCVO) and Dudley (DCVS). Sessions were run at a range of times and venues, including evenings and aimed at groups of 8 -10 people. Total attendance across the eight sessions was 62, which was broadly in line with expectations. Around a third of attendees expressed intention of developing completely new groups, whilst others were keen to explore the development of additional groups by building on existing provision, or relatively new groups wanting to operate more effectively.
- 3.12. The WM Combined Authority, which commissioned the work, is currently working with the CVS's to fund further follow up work to support those who engaged and to put on further workshops. WMCA has expressed its intention to use the evaluation of the activity as example of best practice to be shared nationally.
- 3.13. State of the Sector Report
- 3.14. In March One Walsall published a State of the Sector Report. Developed in partnership with Wolverhampton University's Institute of Community Research and Development, the report provides a quantitative analysis of the borough's Voluntary and Community Sector, alongside several recommendations based on the findings.
- 3.15. Key findings include:
 - Over 1,500 VCS organisations estimated to be operating the borough
 - Vast majority are micro or small with an income of less than £100,000 per year
 - Over a third report health and wellbeing as their primary focus.
 - Over 26,000 hours are volunteered in Walsall each year, valued at over £10M
 - Most report a positive relationship with other VCS organisations, the Council and other statutory bodies, but more analysis needs to be undertaken around relationships with some partners including the CCG and Housing Providers.
- 3.16. Key recommendations include:
 - Better recognition should be made of the added social and economic value small VCSEs bring to Walsall
 - Consider how changes to funding practices and support could improve access and sustainability
 - Focus volunteering support on capacity building small groups and seek opportunities to pool volunteering intelligence
 - Support VCSEs to build ever stronger relationships with one another and statutory partners
- 3.17. One Walsall is planning further qualitative investigation into these findings in the new financial year.

4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements:

- 4.1. The findings of the State of the Sector Report and the development of the Walsall Together Operating Model both point to a risk that much is being asked of the VCS to respond to pressures within the health system, with little evidence of investment to manage this. There is, therefore, a significant risk the VCS will not have the resource to meet the expectations of partners.

5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities:

- 5.1. The voluntary and community sector provides a broad and diverse range of services and activities which touch upon all aspects of health and wellbeing, whether explicitly or implicitly. Supporting a strong and vibrant voluntary sector and supporting citizens and partner agencies to engage in local social action will undoubtedly impact positively on all health and wellbeing priorities.

6. Background papers

- 6.1. One Walsall State of the Sector Report 2019 – <https://onewalsall.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SOS-Report-March-2019.pdf>
- 6.2. NHS Universal Personalised Care – Implementing the Comprehensive Model - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/universal-personalised-care.pdf>

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