

**Minutes of the Village Surgeries Group PPG, Tuesday, 21 January, 2020,  
Farndon Surgery, 6.30pm**

**Present:** Clare Marsh (in the Chair), Terri Hull (Secretary), Ian Waddington, David Hughes, Sheila Sheen, Sheila Caddy, Gill Jones, Nikki Roseblade, Mags Roseblade, Anne Dawson, and Jolene Weaver from the Carers Trust.

**Apologies:** Trevor Ferrigno, Esther Sadler-Williams. Suzy Leaman

**Welcome and Introduction to Jolene Weaver:**

Clare welcomed and introduced Jolene to the meeting and Jolene, Cheshire and Warrington Carers Trust (*the lead provider of information, support and advice services*), outlined her work.

She immediately enlightened us all on the definition of a 'carer' i.e. anyone who cares unpaid for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health condition or an addiction, cannot cope without their support. Her work, therefore, involves managing and supporting such individuals, many of whom are 'off the radar', and working with surgeries to identify them, whilst (at the same time) reducing the possibility of such patients presenting themselves at the surgeries with non-medical needs.

Carers require advice in a multiplicity of areas, not least in identifying that they are a 'carer' (a term which is often stigmatised), but equally in receiving advice on allowances, benefits, available discounts etc – not all allowances are means-tested and many carers fall into the category of 'property rich'/'cash poor'. It is important that carers are swiftly identified and registered with the Carers Trust so that they can access the free information and support services that are available to them.

Jolene has been working with both practices and our Social Prescriber (Claire Lockerbie) is now in place and is working toward some of the objectives. Jolene will attend the next training session.

It was agreed that we should publicise the work of the Carers Trust in the next Newsletter and emphasise that Jolene is collating quarterly data to identify how many carers exist within the VSG; their age profiles; for whom they care; the principal health condition of the cared for individual; and emphasise the need to register and to carry a Carers' Emergency Card. A flyer was circulated as was data regarding the VSG up to January 2019. The helpline number is 0300 102 0008.

Questions followed and everyone thanked Jolene for an enlightening input to the meeting.

**Minutes:** Minutes of 17 December 2019 approved.

**Matters Arising:** Terri queried if she had yet received the detail of what Clare reported on at the AGM (just for filing purposes). Could Trevor also please confirm that payment has been made to Dee Mason regarding the insertion and distribution set up for 2020.

**Newsletter:** Clare has already requested inputs from various individuals – clearly, the Carers Trust now requires an input too.

### **Action Plan:**

**Next Survey** – Sheila Caddy reported that a provisional meeting had taken place (Suzy Leaman had been unable to attend) – since the objective is to compare like with like, it was felt that the work of the sub-group was not burdensome. However, following Jolene's presentation, it was agreed that the 2020 Survey should now include some new questions relating to 'Carers'. Clarification was also sought as to where the final version of the Survey Document is filed.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- VSG Facebook Page – working towards
- Appts – Book on the Day via 111 – limited progress

Deferred until next meeting

### **Updates**

**Claire Lockerbie** had reported that the course in Tattenhall currently had 7 out of a possible 12 signatories - the requirement was 12. Also raised that Claire Lockerbie was going to investigate OPAL (Older People Active Lives) in Tattenhall – this is also not working at capacity – Sheila Sheen is now volunteering at OPAL so would be a natural contact.

**New Receptionist Vacancy** – has been advertised and is also on Tattenhall Online. A valid point was raised by Clare in that we need to highlight that we are expanding the team, whilst working towards more flexible working hours. The publication of 'Vacancies' alone might be misconstrued (by some) as 'high turnover of staff at the VSG' and/or that the VSG 'cannot be a pleasant place in which to work'. Agreed that the next vacancy has a preamble to this effect.

### **Meeting Closed at 8.15pm**

**Next Meeting is at Tattenhall on Tuesday 18 February at 6.30pm** (*Katherine Hussey, Social Prescriber Co-ordinator will be in attendance*).