

Winter Conversations Minutes
Held online via MS Teams
20th January 2021

Present: Becky Law, Annie Parry, Tim Brown, Lynne Schuller, Sarah Carter, Rebecca Stanser, Kath Hobart, Jo Myatt, Simon Cookson, Hilary & Maurice, Simon Cookson, Benjamin Eckersley, Julie Best, Sonya Bown, Catherine Burn, Emily Davies, Helen Azar, Sarah Bray, Anita Ollernshaw, Emily Simpson, Michael Radford, Anna Shaw, Stephen Brown, Vanessa Cookson, Lucy Curtis, Kevin dukes.

Apologies: Steve Williams - Oasis

1. Welcomes and introductions by Becky Law

BL asked the attendees to introduce themselves to the meeting.

2. Discussions and feedback from local organisations.

Steve Brown – Since the last meeting there have been an increase in food parcels. We have seen a lot of individuals who are 1st time recipients of UC. There are grants and funding which is available for energy and utility support. An individual must be on UC, or in the process of applying for UC. There are also vouchers available to distribute for individuals and families (£20 for individuals £40 for a couple and/or children). Money advisors are able to issue vouchers (0300 500 8080).

BDC have received funding to employ a 'Community Champion'. The aim of the funding is to reach those harder to reach individuals of Bassetlaw. The 'Community Champion' will be identifying barriers and work actively with individuals. The Community Champion will be focusing on the Polish, Romanian and Learning difficulty demographic who can be difficult to communicate and support at times. This is a 9-month programme, for any more information please contact Steve Brown at BDC.

The winter warmth booklet is in the final stages of development. Dial a Trip are actively seeing service users by taking for vaccines/appointments – Kath & the team at Dial a Trip will distribute to booklet to the individuals who live in the more rural areas of Bassetlaw.

CAB (energy team) are also referring their clients for vouchers/grants etc.

Bassetlaw Food bank general update:

Kevin Dukes is aware of warehouse spaces which may be available to Bassetlaw FB – BL is to pass this information along to Foodbank.

Food bank are now established on Facebook. Their 'Just Giving' page is linked to their Facebook page now and is actively receiving donations.

Lynne Schuller – The Haworth Food Bank is now distributing food to local families in Harworth fortnightly (Sunday's). 25 Parcels were delivered during

the last distribution. Local Food Banks need to work collaboratively in order to access those families in most need and to prevent duplications.

Annie Parry – There has been a massive increase in volunteering interest. Annie did a shout out before Christmas and as a result have 78 active volunteers who have been deployed into local PCN's and hospitals to assist with vaccinations. (240 ½ hours completed at Larwood & 104 hours at Retford Hospital) Annie has many people who are interested in admin related roles to be carried out at home. If anyone has any admin work which could be done by a volunteer, please contact Annie on 01909 476118 ext. 22.

Catherine Burn – Asked about other local organisations referral intake and demand levels. Anna Shaw (Aurora Wellbeing centre) explained they have seen a referral increase, with them being more complex MH referrals and covid related. Helen Azar explained both services at Centre Place have seen a huge increase in referrals, especially in relation to MH & general wellbeing. Mind have seen an increase in referrals for a broad spectrum of support – they are finding people are struggling more due to Covid.

Overall there is a huge increase of MH – especially in young adults and younger people. Centre Place have put support into schools to help support as much as possible. The CCG are working hard to bring back school counselling. The Aurora have online sessions for self-help. A self help guide – 'How to Access MH services' is needed, BCVS have offered to co-ordinate & help get out to the public.

Vaccination Programme – Bassetlaw hospital will be a hub for vaccine distribution. BCVS staff members are working on this currently, please contact Julie Barnes for more information (01909 476118 ext. 15).

Dial a Trip - are currently transporting individuals for their vaccines. Kath recently found out that transport is being funded by County Council (Notts), however this is not available in South Yorkshire, Bassetlaw and Doncaster. Dial a Trip currently have 7 active drivers, their work is currently down due to no social groups being open. Kath unfortunately lost a driver to COVID-19 just before Christmas.

Michael Radford – Scams related to covid are HIGH at the moment. Michael is using social media to make individuals aware of the different scams and how to avoid and what to look out for.

Steve Williams from the Oasis Centre sent in a message to say that they have secured some further money for Operation Oasis so are able to take names and referrals again for food hampers.