

Isle of Wight Health and Wellbeing Board – Quarterly Update Report

Corporate Theme:	Voluntary Sector Engagement and Representation
Lead Officers:	Emma Corina
Form Completed by:	Emma Corina, Chair, Voluntary Sector Forum
Reporting Period:	To 31 st March 2018

Decisions, Support & Discussions Required of Health and Wellbeing Board	Lead
1. Consider how the voluntary and community sector will be engaged from April 2018	HWB

Other Items for Information:
<p>As it stands funding for Community Action Isle of Wight's grant for providing a support role for the voluntary sector will end in March. It is therefore not currently clear how the voluntary sector will formally engage through a representative structure as the Voluntary Sector Forum would end without CAIW support. (for transparency may I point out that I am also the Chair of CAIW)</p> <p>Potential implications for ending of CAIW grant:</p> <p>The Voluntary Sector Forum (VSF) will close. VSF is an active and participatory network of charities, community organisations, groups, and clubs. It holds formal meetings and communications, through which consultation and information flows between the statutory sector and the voluntary and community sector. Without VSF, there is no longer a mechanism for such consultation and information flow. As Chair of the VSF, I am nominally the voluntary sector representative for the Health and Wellbeing Board and therefore, this role will also cease, and I will no longer attend meetings. The Health and Wellbeing Board should consider how their current strategy and future consultations can be delivered without systems for voluntary and community sector engagement.</p> <p>The volunteer centre will close. This centre undertakes volunteer recruitment, matching and support. It fields enquiries from organisations and potential volunteers from a cost-efficient central point and promotes volunteering in a wide variety of ways. The Health and Wellbeing Board should consider how this closure impacts the proposed role of the community in supporting the strategy through volunteering.</p> <p>Infrastructure support for community groups will cease. This includes, for example, assisting small self-help support groups focused on long term conditions/diseases (funded separately through the CCG but also ending). It includes community groups running libraries, shops and post offices, who will no longer receive support to establish themselves, remain effective, and ensure safeguarding for vulnerable people. The health and wellbeing board should consider how this impacts plans for the community to run local services and further promote self management and resilience.</p> <p>Essential training for voluntary and community organisations will cease. This includes governance, fundraising, safeguarding, working with children, working with volunteers. The Health and Wellbeing Board should consider how this impacts on ensuring such groups are fit for purpose, and how children and vulnerable adults will be kept safe.</p> <p>From a personal perspective, I am extremely sad to see my representation role potentially end. I have supported, chaired and helped drive voluntary and community sector engagement locally for more than 10 years. Although I work for a charity, in this role I am myself a volunteer: unlike most of you in the room, I don't get paid to attend Health and Wellbeing Board meetings! This has been a long-term personal commitment from me, and it will be a shame if it does end in this way. Sadly, I have work</p>

commitments today I could not break to attend the meeting, but I wanted to close by saying thank you to everyone for welcoming and including me over the years.

Emma Corina, Chair,
Voluntary Sector Forum.