

HVDA Update



MAY 2010

Hartlepool Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) Working Together

Hartlepool VCS contributes to a wide range of Health and Wellbeing Themes such as: promoting public health; helping people with long term conditions; working with difficult to reach groups; sexual relationship work; drug and alcohol support; mentoring and coaching; sport/culture/leisure; mental health; social isolation; children and young people; financial inclusion;

A number of VCS groups have received PCT financial support to deliver services against the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment:

ADDvance; Epilepsy Outlook; Hart Gables; Hartlepool Dyspraxia Support; Hartlepool Blind Welfare Association; PATCH; Manor residents association; Headland Future; Owton Manor West; Parents in Need of Support; Solid Rock Café; West View Advice & Resource Centre; The Haven;

In 2009/10 the above named groups benefited 6033 people as a result of the funding provided by the PCT.

The following are examples of specific activities and services being provided:

Water mobility classes, walking group, epilepsy awareness, respite for carers, condition management, sexual health, low vision aids, respite, home visits, support groups, advocacy, emotional literacy, support groups, counselling, healthy eating, counselling, art and other social groups, home loan equipment scheme, welfare benefits.



ADDvance Seed to Table Healthy Eating Club



ADDvance Street Dancing

Public Health Community Chest

Examples of activities and services which have benefited from the Public Health Community Chest including Dent Derwent Area Residents Association (healthy eating cooking course); Hartlepool MS group (running costs); Hartlepool Patch (fruit making/healthy produce with children and young families); The criteria for this funding has recently been reviewed in order to better collect health outcomes data.

Capacity Building

The PCT's funding relationship with the VCS includes supporting HVDA to provide capacity building support to groups including the co-ordination of the Public Health Community Chest and specific targeted funding for difficult to reach groups.

Contracted Services

On a larger scale there are organisations such as Hartlepool MIND which provides a range of services such as: support around alcohol addiction; family support; mental health support network; IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies); awareness and well being; learning disability advocacy; Human Givens Outreach project. The group had 1,400 referrals and 1036 clients in 2009/10.

Social Prescribing Pilot in Hartlepool

Social Prescribing is a mechanism that links primary care with non medical sources of support within the community. A pilot programme has been developed in Hartlepool seeking to link more Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups with GP's and Primary Health Care Professionals.

Anyone who visits their GP in Hartlepool could be offered a 'social prescription'. The new scheme links GP's across the town with a range of services provided by local voluntary groups.

Keith Bayley, manager of the voluntary support agency HVDA explained why the scheme was set up - "There are many voluntary groups in Hartlepool that help people with all kinds of conditions. Often they have been set up by people who have experienced the condition first hand so can provide real lived experience, or there are groups such as Epilepsy Outlook that provide expertise into a specific condition". Keith explained that research shows that one in three people who go to their GP may have some other issues they need to address. "This scheme can help with a whole range of lifestyle issues such as debt, housing and alcohol misuse. With over 600 voluntary and community groups working in the town there are opportunities to find the right group for any issue. We wanted a way to help link them to the work GP's do, and believe that this scheme is the answer".

The Social Prescribing scheme is initially being run during 2010/11 in Hartlepool. "Although it has just started it has already matched 50 local people with services that are right for them. I hope it will continue in the town and become a firm link between the GP's and the voluntary sector". The scheme should be particularly beneficial to those with people with long term conditions; low level mental health problems; pain and medically unexplained symptoms; people who are lonely/isolated. The service in Hartlepool is being overseen by HVDA and co-ordinated by Hartlepool MIND who can be contacted on (01429) 269303.

Hartlepool LINKs

HVDA won the contract to support the development of Hartlepool LINKs in 2008. Staff were appointed in January 2009. LINKs seeks to promote and support the involvement of local people in the commissioning and scrutiny of local health and care services. Through a programme of enter and view visits a number of concerns have been identified. Priority areas identified to date have included: appointments; out of hours services/home visits; rights and dignity; hospital transport; the Big Care debate.

Additional work for the next year involves looking at the National Carers Strategy and the work of the Crisis Resolution Team. The work of LINKs is overseen by an Executive Committee which meets monthly. If you want to know more about LINKs contact Christopher Akers Belcher on (01429) 262641 or e-mail c.akersbelcher@hvda.co.uk you are also welcome to attend this years AGM which will be held on 21 May 2010 at 10.45am—3.00pm (Trade Stalls from 10.00am) at the Staincliffe Hotel.



Market stalls at LINKs AGM 2009



Cllr Steve Wallace, Chair of Hartlepool PCT addresses the LINKs AGM 2009



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