

Ashford Health & Well Being Board 20th January 2016

Voluntary Sector Next Steps

This paper has been compiled following discussion at the Lead Officer's Group meeting on 17/11/15 in response to the Voluntary Sector presentations to the board on 19th October.

The presentations featured Ashford Voluntary Community & Social Enterprise organisations providing services that prevent or delay escalation to more costly health and care interventions and can:

- Improve wellbeing
- Reduce unnecessary health appointments
- Reduce reliance on medication

Following these presentations the following recommendations were made to the board:

- Explore ways to engage meaningfully, with the VCSE as an equal partner and to develop joint initiatives to leverage in additional, external funding not accessible to the statutory sector
- Recognise the social and economic value of community based services that address social isolation, improve independence and reduce costs to statutory services
- Create an a 'resilience' funding to support smaller organisations
- Change how VCSEs are funded; longer term funding that enables organisations to make strategic decisions and to respond to statutory sector objectives
- Develop a social prescribing scheme for Ashford
- Work with the VCSE to better understand economic savings to the system

The purpose of this paper is to focus on three areas where resources might be concentrated so some these recommendations can be met.

1. Social Prescribing

Red Zebra have obtained funding through The RAISE CHALLENGE FUND "to partner with local GPs to design and develop a new social prescribing model offering a holistic approach to health and wellbeing. By coordinating local support services, community groups and healthcare professionals this innovative pilot aims to trial a more coordinated approach to healthcare that could be used elsewhere across the UK." This pilot is launched in January 2016 and Red Zebra is in consultation with South Coast Kent CCG with regards to piloting a scheme in one of the districts they cover. There is a potential for a Ashford pilot scheme facilitated by Red Zebra and it is suggested this possibility be discussed by Ashford Health & Well Being board.

2. Funding/Grants

Rolling Funding

This could be aimed at organisations providing services where there is an overlap with Board priority areas. Rolling Funding to cover a three-year period would allow organisations to plan ahead strategically and concentrate on service delivery.

Small Grants

Hastings and Rother CCG have a small grants fund of £225k which provides resilience funding for small Voluntary organisations that provide very localised services. This is administered in the form of small grants by the local Infrastructure organisation who provide support with applications and who ensure funding is for projects which reflect priority areas. This model could be managed in Ashford by Red Zebra to enable small organisations to provide health-related services.

3. Ashford Community Forums

Red Zebra could provide support to the Four Community Forums in Ashford to help them develop and more cohesive strategy with regards to feeding into the Health and Well Being Board agenda. This could involve a series of structured workshops, facilitated discussion around priority-setting, focus groups.

Tracy Dighton & Michael James - January 2016