

Summary of Patient Participation Group (P.P.G) Network Carers Event 31/08/18

This event was arranged following a suggestion from the Patient Participation Group members who identified a gap in knowledge regarding services for carers in Doncaster.

Relevant speakers were identified and were keen to attend and inform the group on their role and services they provide. These included:

Angela Waite – Strategic Lead for Carers, Doncaster Council

Cath McGee – Making Space

Denise Beevers – Young Carers

Debbie Osborne – Doncaster Partnership for Carers

The P.P.G considered how they could market this event and where it should be held as it was evident that the regular venue would not be appropriate. Doncaster Museum was considered to be a good option as he had all the facilities required. A. Goodall, other members of the Healthwatch Team and Geoffrey Johnson from the P.P.G circulated information regarding the event through various channels (Social media, word of mouth and E mails)

Prior to the event Healthwatch Doncaster became aware that the lift at the Museum was broken and we had to change the venue the day prior to the event. The event was held at the Baptist Church on Chequer Avenue.

Debbie Osborne from Doncaster Partnership for Carers sent her apologies on the morning of the event, however the three other speakers attended and delivered an awareness of their service.

Angela Waite – Strategic Lead for Carers, Doncaster Council

Angie Waite discussed how General Practice need to be influenced to recognise carers and ensure their needs are met and that the P.P.G' s may be able to help with this issue. Angie made the group aware of the launch of the Carers Charter in November and that this will be sent to known carers and General Practice. Angie suggested that the P.P.G's need to encourage the practices to send these out to carers and a discussion followed with regard to how the information about carers is obtained and shared. V.Hassell (Deputy Practice Manager) shared the fact that the Kingthorne Practice have sent out a survey monkey asking whether people are carers and said this was not a difficult task and could be replicated by other practices. It was suggested that Care Navigators ask whether people are carers but this is not common practice however Angie asked whether P.P.G's can influence this and added that General Practitioners will be scrutinised in the future as to how they support carers.

Cath McGee – Making Space

Cath. McGee gave an overview of her service which has been in existence in Doncaster for 18years. Making Space will contact carers if practices provide information, they work closely with the Wellbeing Officers and referrals can come from any source.

Denise Beevers – Young Carers

Denise Beevers explained how the Children and Families Act 2014 lays down a duty for Local Authorities to know carers, assess their needs and ensure they have appropriate support. The service came into the Local Authority from Barnados in October 2017 and the ambition is to reduce the impact on Young Carers. The intention is to work with professionals who know Young Carers in order to identify them and meet their needs

Currently there are 117 carers known to the organisation and 63% care for their mother. Most of them are between 11-16years of age however the youngest is 6years old. There are 4 workers in 4 hubs around Doncaster working with Young Carers and a youth Club has just started in Stainforth. D, Beevers explained how their organisation needs to increase the numbers of young carers known to them and raise the profile of young carers. She is currently keen to work with professionals to identify these young people and develop a commitment between adult and children's services to work together to identify them.

All the speakers were very well received and there was some very interesting and thought provoking debate with each speaker.

The speakers gave the group information as to how carers of all ages can be supported in the community and it became apparent that the P.P.G'S can play a role in raising the profile of Carers in the practices to ensure their needs are met.

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