

what
would you do?

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NHS Long Term Plan

Renew 123

Wednesday 24th April 2019

1 Introduction

1.1 Description of the focus group/engagement activity

Group Name: Renew 123

Short description: A community group supported by the local church in Bentley. They offer help to anyone irrelevant of their religious beliefs. Engagement around the views and opinions of local people in regards to the NHS Long Term Plan.

1.2 Acknowledgements

Thank you to Ann Gosling, who kindly accepted us into the group and allowed us to facilitate this engagement activity and the community group as a whole for their time and co-operation.

2 What was the purpose of the activity/session?

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the engagement session lent itself to gaining views and opinions from local people in regards to the NHS Long Term Plan. Healthwatch Doncaster have been asked to share the commitments outlined in the NHS Long Term Plan to gain feedback on whether people agree that the areas of interest proposed are correct or should the future focus be on other current issues people are facing.

2.2 What did you do?

A group of ten people gathered at the Renew 123 community centre to share their views on the subject of NHS Long Term Plan. They were very animated and keen to share their views as they'd never been approached before to be involved in being able to inform and influence local health and social care services. The engagement session was delivered informally with participants enjoying a hot beverage and sweet treat while discussion points were raised on different aspects of the long term plan, the main discussion points were around mental health services, how people feel there could be so much more achieved in the Doncaster area especially around young people and early intervention. Alongside this, effective and positive community support had already been experience by many of the people in this group and confident that it helps them maintain connected within their community and support them to have a more quality fulfilled life than have the upheaval of being admitted to hospital. With this in mind, the commitments to community support were welcomed and actively encouraged.

2.3 Results of the activity/session(s)

Feedback from people who took part

- The group championed the local self-help smoking cessation clinic due to members being able to conquer their addiction to smoking and become a non-smoking individual.
- Vocal and passionate around the topic of how you can self-manage diabetes. Questions and queries were raised around people's diagnosis of diabetes due to most of the group being diagnosed in later life at a general check-up at their GP practise.

- Everyone strongly believed that the local community is vital and able to support each other in their times of need. The community spirit appeared incredibly strong within the group.
- One individual from the group has no direct family support so classes the local community group as her family network. She's incredibly grateful of their support as she is a single mother with three children under the age of five, and feels that she would struggle on her own.
- The majority agreed that they are pleased with the services that they receive from their local GP practises and are able to access the right care right for them.
- 50% of the people in the group agreed with the priorities set out regarding the changes to mental health services. The group felt they were equipped to comment due to participants of the group having mental health issues themselves.
- Overall the group supported the proposals regarding community support and their local neighbourhood care.
- Currently the group felt they could not access GP services without difficulties arising, but once an appointment was in place the service was good.
- Everyone within the group felt that End of Life care should be more community based where possible. They feel isolation could play a huge part in someone's end of life experience being negative rather than positive.
- Stronger mental health services are required especially for young people to help aid early intervention.

Feedback from staff/volunteers who took part

This group is fully led by volunteers from the local community. The lady, Ann Gosling who was delivering the activities within the community centre felt "overwhelmed and honoured" to even be asked to give an opinion on local health services and social care. And welcomes any future opportunities to engage with Healthwatch Doncaster.

2.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, regarding the NHS Long Term Plan participants of the focus group were incredibly positive and receptive to the outlined commitments that could be implemented over the next ten years. Their feedback heavily focused on mental health services, and how young people should be offered a proactive support on self-care and understanding their emotions rather than reactive care after an issue has come to light. In addition to this, the group were passionate and believed that their local community is vital to keeping everyone well and safe.

2.5 Data and information summary

Date of Focus Group/Engagement Session	24/04/2019
Group name	Renew 123
Description of the group or session	Community Group
Life stage – (Starting Well, Living Well, Ageing Well)	Starting, living and ageing well
No. of attendees	10
Theme area (Mental Wellbeing, Choice and Control and Independence, Care near where you live)	Mental Wellbeing and Care near where you live
Was it a condition specific session – if so please identify the specific condition	Not Applicable
What were the key outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong support for the proposed changes to local NHS services. • Mental health services need to be available more for young people. • Community connections are vital to help one another.