



**Corsham Community Wellbeing Group – WORKING GROUP MEETING
Monday 16 January 2023 via Teams**

Present: Councillor A Brown (Chairman)
Councillors Dr T Bush, N Farmer, G McCaffery and R Williams

In attendance: Cllr S Abbott
Dr C Baker – Corsham Connections
D Blake - Youth Outreach, The RISE Trust
E Drage – Corsham Youth Zone
V Fauset – Community Services Officer (Wellbeing)
J Goodwin – Corsham Connections
R Griffiths - Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager - Corsham, Chippenham and Calne, Wiltshire Council
Cllr Dr B Mathew - Wiltshire Councillor and Chair of Corsham Area Board Health and Wellbeing Group
L Smith - The RISE Trust
S Thomas - CTC Head of Community Services
K Viner - Corsham Community Club (3Cs)

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr R Hopkinson.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made.

3. Matters Arising

Election of Vice Chair

Cllr Bush agreed to support the working group as the new Vice Chair. Proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Farmer.

4. Foodbank Update

Cllr Brown updated the group on The Corsham Foodbank. They had packed 98 Christmas parcels for local families in need which equated to around £11-12,000 worth of donated products, the largest they had ever done.

If anyone had any time to help or see the work of the Foodbank, please get in touch.

5. Cost of Living Workshops

VF provided feedback on the recent Cost of Living Cooking Workshops held on 15 and 29 November 2022. The aim had been to provide a safe, warm and welcoming space at Springfield Campus for people to socialise and have fun whilst cooking healthy, nutritious, quick, easy, and economical meals.

Participants learnt cooking techniques which would save time and money whilst producing nutritious and easily-made meals, which they all ate together at the end of the session. They were shown that you can cook a healthy and delicious meal from food you may get from the Foodbank or Souper Friday, using minimal electricity and gas.

Warm and Safe Wiltshire supported both sessions, providing information and advice about energy savings, bill-switching, the Priority Services Register, the Warm Home Discount, and other prominent initiatives. Participants were also signposted to other services.

Corsham Town Councillors, The Rise Trust, Wiltshire Council's Prevention and Wellbeing Team, Wiltshire Carers, Wiltshire Council's Learning and Development Team, The Cotswold Centre and Corsham Community Club all attended at various times throughout the days, providing plenty of opportunities to create support networks in an informal and accessible way.

Unfortunately, the weather was particularly wet on one morning and combining this with winter bugs and transport issues it did mean that fewer people attended than had booked on. Feedback obtained was overall positive.

AB mentioned, if the need was there, that CTC could support running a cookery / life skills session for Y13s at The Corsham School ahead of them going to university.
AB and VF to follow up.

6. Update - We Are the People

Cllr Bush updated the group on the 'We Are the People' project running at Bath Spa University. TB explained that as part of WATP they were now looking to set up a Disabled People's Organisation (DPO). This would connect and bring together disabled people and parents and carers to address the issues that were important to them. WATP could support, for seven months, a research fellow or a community group of up to four people to work with the group. The idea would be that that work would create a toolbox/template so that the ideas can be further used.

7. Update – Youth

The RISE Trust – Outreach

Danielle Blake, from The RISE Trust, gave an update on the work being carried out in Corsham on a Wednesday and Friday evening. Although it had been very wet recently the workers had been busy meeting young people around the town. They had been running Hot Chocolate Fridays and regularly giving out snack and fruit packs, whilst supporting the young people and building relationships.

DB had a meeting scheduled with the St Aldhelm's Church Elders to discuss renting a room as a safe space during the winter. Young people would be able to meet the workers there and have a hot drink/snack. DB discussed how this worked well in Calne, whereby the workers walk around for half-an-hour before and after each session, so they still provided the detached support to those young people not visiting the space. There was an explanation of how this was a different model of youth work to Corsham Youth Zone (CYZ) and how it was aimed at different young people in the community. DB stated that the warm space would not be a youth club but a safe place for young people to go for a short time during the colder months.

Corsham Youth Zone

Emma Drage had recently updated the Town Council at January's Council Meeting. ED reiterated that CYZ was going from strength to strength with increased numbers and support. There were 100 young people who regularly attended the sessions and they were supported by up to 20 volunteers and 20 young leaders. A full programme of sessions was planned for the winter including life skills, cooking, budgeting, job roles, bank accounts and a LGBTQ+ community focus.

8. Update - Families

Leona Smith from The RISE Trust updated the group on the recent work they were undertaking with families of under-5s in Corsham. The Chat and Chill session at the Springfield Campus on a Tuesday morning was very busy as was the Wednesday group running in Rudloe, at the Dandelion Café. The recent Early Words Together course proved successful in Corsham.

The next course planned would cover First Aid and was taking place on 21 February, funded by the Town Council. There would be 12 places for parents/carers only. If childcare was a barrier, The RISE Trust might be able to provide some support. Contact LS for more information.

LS would be leaving The RISE Trust in March 2023 to take on a new role. The group thanked her for all her hard work and support.

9. Update – Older/Vulnerable

Sarah Gilmartin of IID was unable to attend the meeting.

Karen Viner from the **Corsham Community Club (3Cs)** attended. The Club was continuing to run successfully, with more new people coming along each time. There were around 30 regular members. Thirty- four people enjoyed their Christmas 2022 trip to Salisbury.

Dates for 2023 had yet to be confirmed. Cllr S Abbott would contact Sarah Pluckrose at the Springfield Campus for an update. Corsham Town Hall could support as a back-up venue. Ros Griffiths offered support and requested KV copied her into correspondence with the Campus.

10. Update - Corsham Connections

Jon Goodwin, a Trustee from Corsham Connections, updated the group on their recent progress and thanked the Council for its support. Corsham Connections was now a registered charity (Nov 2022). JG explained that with an ageing and immobile population and with increased isolation since the pandemic, coupled with the economic downturn, there was even more need to support some members of the Corsham community.

The group had started their bespoke training programme and were aiming for 20 volunteers. At present they had around eight. They had found gaining volunteers quite difficult and would like to work together with other organisations to support each other. The Pound Arts Centre had been very helpful as a venue, and CC's trainer was very effective. The website would be improved, and they had a consultant who would be working on this over the coming months. They would also support with a confidential recording system for clients. Jane Brake from The Porch Surgery would be providing the referrals and aimed to start supporting clients in around two months; ideally when then they had 10 + volunteers who had been trained and were ready to support the people.

11. Update - Community Garden

Adam Walton updated the group on the Community Garden at the back of the Pound Arts Centre. It was well maintained with borders and crops and Corsham Climate Action was now in a position to

encourage community groups to use it as a facility for outdoor activities. The Girl Guides had visited to help plant wildflowers. School children on the summer FUEL programme at The Pound had also enjoyed the space last summer.

Contact adam@aw-consulting.co.uk for further details. AW would create a flyer for promotion.

12. Wiltshire Council Area Board Update

Ros Griffiths updated the group on recent Wiltshire Council initiatives. The Area Board was due to meet on 26 January at Corsham Town Hall. They had 12 funding applications to review. RG stated there was around £800 left in their budget which could be approved remotely. Contact RG for further information.

Celebrating Age had two free events coming up: Greenhouse Restaurant at Wadswick Green 10.45 – 11.30am on 10 February , and Souper Friday at Corsham Baptist Church between 12-1pm on the same date. For more information, please contact CAWSupport@wiltshiremusic.org.uk

Cllr Brian Mathew discussed the potential for a tea party for older members of the Community. This had worked well in the past at the Springfield Campus in conjunction with The Corsham School. Karen Viner expressed an interest in being involved.

The next Health and Wellbeing meeting would be in March 2023.

13. AOB

VF mentioned the Warm Spaces leaflet which was available from the Town Council

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.

VF 23.01.23