

**JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY ORGANISATIONS
6 DECEMBER 2017**

PRESENT Councillors Councillor Edith Macauley (in the Chair), Councillor Abdul Latif and Councillor Stan Anderson, Councillor Joan Henry

Rev Mrs Neale, Mr Sheikh, Mr Savage, Mr Hall, Mr Maliki, Mr Norman-Smith, Mrs Norman-Smith, Mr Mirza, Ms Marie de Souza, Ms Rodrigues, Mr Maye, Mr Samuel

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 1)

None.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies were received from Mr Sheikh, Mr Rizvi, Dr Arumugaraasah and Cllr Simpson.

3 MATTERS ARISING (Agenda Item 4)

There were no matters arising.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

The minutes were agreed.

5 COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS - ABBAS MIRZA, MERTON AND WANDSWORTH LOCAL TRANSFORMATION BOARD (Agenda Item 5)

Mr Mirza, the Patient and Public Engagement lead informed the meeting that for the financial year 2018/19, the intention of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is to deliver Patient Centred Care and take a more integrated approach. The CCG wants to provide care closer to patient's homes and put good hospital discharge plans in place to reduce re-admittance. There is a 'Whole Person' vision incorporating health promotion, prevention and social responsibility. Mr Mirza emphasised the need for the right care at the right time.

What does this mean for Merton? – Mr Mirza outlined that there is a transformation plan and the key areas for the commissioning programme are:

- Urgent Care
- Primary Care
- Planned Care
- Integrated Care
- Children
- Mental Health

The challenges to achieving the objectives include an ageing and increasing population also health inequality in East Merton. Mr Mirza outlined that the CCG has to make efficiency savings but at the same time wants to improve the patient journey and explore new approaches to service delivery.

Mr Mirza asked the following questions; **(1) Have we got the approach right? and (2) Are we missing anything?**

Questions/Comments

What support is given after discharge? GPs should contact patients soon after discharge. Mr Mirza responded that a care plan is developed before patient discharge and lists all the support that will be in place. The aim is to wrap around care before discharge.

How will all the support be funded? Are GPs on board? Mr Mirza replied that using existing resources and working smarter is the key to reducing hospital visits. GP hubs have been introduced and the Nelson or Cricket Green offer GP appointments for those who cant get appointments with their GP. GPs are signed up to the primary care strategies because it will make their work less pressured.

A comment was made that that walk-in clinics were helpful and they have been shut down – the hubs are not as effective. Mr Mirza responded that people should be going to their GPs. There is a GP at the hub and users have provided positive feedback.

What support is available to improve the health of East Merton residents? Mr Mirza gave the example of the Social Prescribing project which aims to stop people going to their GP. An evaluation of the project has shown that most of the people using the service are older white females and loneliness and mental health is the main illness affecting them. Work is being done to tackle loneliness to prevent depression.

A JCC representative gave an example of his personal experience and the lack of support received from the hospital. He outlined that his partner had been hospitalised with a serious illness and was not offered a care plan, additionally poor care was received. He emphasised that compassion and care should be at the heart of the care plan and in his experience this is not the case.

Mr Mirza apologised to the representative for his family's unsatisfactory experience and offered to provide this feedback to St George's hospital and stressed that the care plan is important and a main aim.

6 JIMMY ASHER FOUNDATION (JAF) - JOSEPH MAYE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Agenda Item 6)

Mr Joseph Maye began by thanking Cllr Henry for inviting him to the meeting. He outlined that the foundation started in honour of his father who died in 2012 and had worked with young people for many years.

The foundation works with young people and offers a range of activities such as; sport, media and life skills. He has worked in local schools and Phipps Bridge, also Star Radio which is based in Mitcham.

Mr Tafari Samuel outlined JAF's vision – to inspire and empower young people. The foundation also builds cohesion because there is strong partnership working with a range of groups. Many issues are tackled more effectively by working together.

The foundation supports young people to learn to cook and encourages girls to participate in sport. There are numerous projects being run to provide young people with basic life skills.

Questions/Comments

Where is the organisation based? Mr Maye replied that it is based in Merton and Wandsworth and now internationally.

A representative applauded the foundation for their good work and asked how were young people reacting to the work? Mr Samuel replied that the response was positive as young people are being engaged on their own terms. The foundation has bridged the gap by using people from similar backgrounds to the young people. Evidence of the work being done can be found on the website.

The JAF is delivering an agricultural project in Gambia, are there any plans to extend this to Mitcham? Mr Maye replied that there is a new JAF Youth Allotment Growing project that is about to start in Mitcham working with two primary schools.

Where does JAF get funding from? Mr Maye replied that numerous funding applications are made to various organisations including councils. JAF is now being approached by Chelsea Football Club and London Youth has also provided funding. However the foundation is still looking for further funding to do other projects.

How does JAF fund the international work? Mr Maye replied that this has largely been through numerous fund raising including Just Giving and Crowd Funding.

How have you bridged the gap, what strategy was used? The young people are empowered to support others. For example they are taught to play basket ball, when the young people become too old to compete they become coaches or referees and go into schools. A mirror strategy is being used.

7 BAME VOICE UPDATE- HANNAH NEALE, CHAIR (Agenda Item 7)

Mrs Hannah Neale gave an update on BAME Voice. The organisation was launched in February 2016 to be independent and focus on BAME communities and provide a collective voice.

In the first year work focused on being a collective unit, there for everyone – a unified voice. Mr Maliki added that BAME Voice helped to promote health messages in his church, as seminars on diabetes, mental health and managing and preventing high blood pressure had been held. Also the strategic engagement of the group has provided a good overview and that has been helpful.

Mr Savage informed the meeting that BAME Voice is recognised by the council and it has helped groups to do work for the wider communities. BAME Voice is now part of civic life and involved in decision making bodies such as the Safer Neighbourhood Board, holding the Police to account. Mr Savage added that BAME Voice has gained respect and he is proud to be involved with the organisation. He paid praised the dynamism of the Chair, Mrs Neale.

Mrs Neale concluded that it has been a collective effort and working with members of the Asian community has been good. BAME Voice is not a threat to other organisations and works strategically. She added that BAME communities need to do the following:

- Become familiar with the British culture, learn customs
- Endeavour to learn English to gain the skills and be empowered
- Break down cultural barriers

Mrs Neale added that historical allocations policies have resulted in enclaves of religious and cultural sameness which at times could be problematic. She explained

that there is a perception that housing is given to minority groups and this may result in them being victimised if there is a concentration of particular groups in an area.

Questions/Comments

There was a debate about the experiences of minority communities in Britain and there was a general consensus that we now have to look to the future. Cllr Macauley informed the meeting that as the Cabinet Member she had put forward the proposal to start a BAME organisation and she fully supports BAME Voice. In a time of funding cuts it is important for the organisations to work together and make bids for funding.

8 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD UPDATE - ABAYEH SAVAGE (Agenda Item 8)

Mr Savage gave an update on the SNB meeting that was held. He congratulated the JAF for unknowingly contributing to MOPAC's 20/20/20. He suggested that JAF bid for SNB funding to do crime reduction activities.

Mr Savage informed the meeting about the intended closure of Wimbledon Police station which many people are opposed to. Residents will be encouraged to report incidents online. There is still time to protest about the future closure.

Questions/Comments

Cllr Henry informed the meeting that the 101 telephone number for reporting non emergencies to the Police is not free to call from mobile phones.

Cllr Macauley informed the meeting that the Neighbourhood Police units will need to be used. There are a lot of concerns about the proposed cuts and representations have been made to the Home Secretary.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item)

Mr Savage asked to be added to the forward plan for the next meeting to discuss the Westminster Drugs project.

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