

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY ORGANISATIONS

10 September 2019

PRESENT: Cllr Edith Macauley MBE (CHAIR), Cllr Joan Henry, Councillor Omar Bush, Councillor Eloise Bailey, Councillor Adam Bush, Councillor Marsie Skeete, Councillor Agatha Akyigyina, Rev'd Hannah Neale, Saleem Sheikh, Ranjith Sivapragiasam, Michael Coates and John Dimmer (notes)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Anton Morgan-Thorne

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed

4. LEARN ENGLISH TOGETHER - ABBY PRICE, PROJECT DIRECTOR

Presentation by Abby Price the Project Director for the Learn English Together project. This project has received funding from central government and aims to co-ordinate and match English learners with the most suitable vacancies in Merton and Sutton.

Q. What types of English Language courses are available?

A. We help everyone access support. This is a joint project with LBM and Merton Home Tutoring. We have mapped EOK providers and referral organisations. There are 13 main providers. Targeting different groups but looking in particular at disadvantaged women who are under-represented in accessing the provision.

Q. How do people find out about the courses (over 800)

A. Visit the website or get in touch – details provided in the presentation.

Q. Is Abby in contact with MVSC as they have a bulletin?

A. Yes, also information gone out to Faith and Belief Forum

Q. What have you achieved so far?

A. Only 4 weeks since launch and have undertaken 35 assessments and advised 50 others.

5. MERTON DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE– ROSA TREADWELL, PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Cost to the public purse of dementia care and treatment is now higher than cancer and cardio-vascular illnesses. There has been an estimated 7-fold increase in dementia amongst BAME communities compared with a 2-fold increase for White UK. 36% of carers are giving 100 days a year in caring for a loved one. 64% say that they are getting no support or not enough support. The Dementia Action Alliance will feature in the new Community Plan. 1 in 14 over 65s are affected by dementia. We have over 700 dementia friends in Merton.

Q. Why is the prevalence increasing in BAME communities higher than WUK groups?

A. Higher risk factors in BAME communities. Also, significant proportion undiagnosed or with late diagnosis. Need to raise awareness and overcome stigma associated with dementia. We are all likely to be affected in some way and there is something that everyone can do to help.

Q. Are you working with planning? The built environment can make a big difference.

A. Alzheimer's Society have been doing a store by store blitz, focus is on Wimbledon for 2019.

Q. What do you mean by informal carers

A. Ad hoc or carers who are not registered as carers.

Q. What are the outcomes so far of this work?

Dementia Friends research and best practice. Council Tax have streamlined their exemption process.

6. MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING – ROSA TREADWELL, PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Aim is to reduce the rate of suicides to zero. Trained 50% of public sector staff in the borough including CSF, CCG, Police. MH training is free to attend. First come, first served.

Q. MH training is great news and signposting to facilities but the facilities are not always there or accessible.

A. Training is mainly focused on prevention.

Q. Is the training available to frontline staff so that they can understand that the presenting issue e.g. homelessness, isn't always the only issue and that MH could well be the underlying issue?

A. Training has been focused on frontline staff include the police, the council and in GP practices.

Q. How are you making people aware of the training?

As well as the JCC, working with imagine independence, sports centres, rugby and football clubs, CCG, council and police

7. TACKLING DIABETES IN MERTON – BARRY CAUSER, PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSIONING MANAGER

Clinicians approached the Health and Wellbeing Board. Concerned that the focus was on a medical model of care but needed a more holistic approach looking at prevention and self management. Led to the development of the Diabetes Truth Programme. Informed a wider diabetes strategy with 3 themes:

- Oversight of clinicians
- Holistic approach to physical and mental health
- Impact of place and being able to make healthy choice

Q. Diabetes Truth Task Group very helpful. Regarding the home testing kits can anyone buy it?

A. There's an online tool looking at risk facts and also advice on risk factors available in community venues. If high risk then can take to GP.

Q. We must listen to communities and need a dialogue with BAME communities with higher risk facts.

A. There is a network of diabetes suffers and building the peer to peer advice offer.

Q. Cannot under-estimate the impact of mental health and wellbeing on the risk of becoming diabetic. Need social infrastructure such as the allotment project to support people's wellbeing as well as physical side.

A. Gym, swimming and lifestyle can make an amazing difference.

Q. What age groups are you targeting?

A. Particular focus on schools and community leaders to influence change.

Q. Need to tell people about the choices they have and consequence – voluntary sector important in getting this message across.

A. Agreed.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

Meeting closed at 9:30pm