

South Woodham Ferrers Health and Social Care Group
Public Meeting on Residential Care, Frailty and Care of the Elderly
Held on 25th June 2018 at Trinity Church South Woodham Ferrers

This meeting followed the AGM previously reported.

Apologies were received from Peter Blackman Chairman of the Health and Social Care Group. The meeting was chaired by the Vice Chairman David Birch.

The first presentation was given by James Wilson and Kate Butcher describing how the Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (MECCG) were supporting the elderly through their Live Well initiative and their specific Frailty targets.

A copy of the full presentation is available on this website. Particular reference was made to Project Echo supporting Care Homes, the Red Bag Scheme which ensures that all the patients' paperwork, medication and other documentation goes with the patient if they go into hospital or when they go home.

Question Will the support given to Care Homes be extended to Sheltered Housing?

Answer. Yes

Question. Are these initiatives NHS or Essex County Council and how do they relate?

Answer They are NHS but there is close collaboration between the MECCG, Mid Essex Hospital and Social Services run by Essex County Council.

Question A case was cited of a patient who had received good service from various providers but there had been no communication between the various agencies which had resulted in the complete absence of a Care Package.

Answer This should not have happened and the steps being put in place should prevent it happening in future.

Question From SWF GP. Communications have been very poor. Patients have been sent home without a Care Package and told to ring their surgery if they have a problem.

Answer. The closer collaboration between agencies should help to alleviate this problem.

Question. Will there be Community Services housed in the New Health Centre?

Answer. Yes

Paul Buckle the newly appointed manager of Windle Court (part of the Runwood Group) gave a brief presentation on the work of the Home. He explained that they offer one to one service if needed. They offer a wide variety of activities for residents. They also help dementia sufferers. Windle Court is registered with the Care Quality Commission.

Question Does Windle Court offer respite care?

Answer. Yes

Melody Hastings gave a presentation about Rohan Court which is sheltered housing run by the Housing Association, CHP. The presentation slides are here on the website. Rohan Court is for independent living. They operate an "OK each day" telephone service for £3 per week. The resident presses a button each day at a pre-agreed time to indicate that they are well. There is no longer a warden service since Essex County Council withdrew funding.

Question Where is Rohan Court?

Answer. Meriodic Drive off Gandalf's Ride.

Jo Scott, the manager, then gave a presentation about St Joseph's Nursing Home in Danbury. St Joseph's is an Independent Nursing Home. However if a patient is in need of nursing care they can apply for funding. The Home caters for numerous patients who need end of life care. These can get full funding. There are no specific units for different types of users. They do not cater for specialised dementia care as the building is not suitable. Residents are permitted to bring their own furniture subject to space. The Home is staffed by 2 registered nurses, care staff, kitchen staff, breakfast supervision staff. All of these receive regular training. A GP from Danbury does weekly rounds and a dentist is available.

Question Who decides whether a patient needs nursing home or care home residency

Answer. Hospital in consultation with Social Services and the family.

Question How many beds in the home?

Answer 36

Donna King then gave a talk about the work of Carers First. This organisation was commissioned from April 2018 to provide support for unpaid carers, having successfully tendered for the work from Essex County Council. Telephone contact is initially with their Centre in Kent and can then be passed to local centres in Braintree, Chelmsford, Dengie etc. They hold regular support groups in Champions Manor Hall and all support groups events are listed in their "What's on Guide issued three monthly.

Question. What is the relationship between Carers First and Action for Family Carers?

Answer. They are still working together to avoid duplication
Debbie Grindle presented for Action for Family Carers. It is a small charity working out of Maldon where they have a Day Centre operating Monday to Friday. It offers carers respite giving them a break from their caring duties. In Champions Manor Hall on Wednesday and Friday they are given a meal and entertainment. They also run day trips. They are funded by a number of organisations in the Town including the Town Council, Mr Gees Foundation and Asda.

Question Is transport provided?

Answer. In Maldon yes but in South Woodham Ferrers no

Question What is the cost?

Answer. £35 per day including the meal. Some qualify for financial support. Val Carter explained her Church Project, Memory, Worship and Dementia. Working to create a space where those with or without dementia can approach God. The Project was scheduled to start in September 2018. Further information can be obtained from Val.

Dr Cormack gave a brief overview of the Primary Care work in SWF. He said that all Practices are involved in the care of the Frail and Elderly. There had been a shared trained Frailty Nurse seconded to the Practices but she had moved on. Now they have a Pharmacist who is trained in various procedures, taking blood pressure etc. As usual funding was an issue the present arrangements being funded until end 2018.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15. At the request of the meeting he promised to pass on attendees' good wishes to Peter Blackman