

1. Overview

A couple of exploratory meetings have been held in regard of the provision of local health services.

BANES is split into several Primary Care Networks (PCNs), and Freshford falls within the Minerva PCN.

It has been identified that 2 specific aspects of health provision should be being provided to the local community, including:

- Village Agents
- Social Prescribing

Social Prescribing Links are surgery based, which suggests that the Coombe Down Practice are best placed to serve our local community.

Contact with WERN was initially made looking into how best to support the current activities liaising with Coombe Down Practice as regards starting a Freshford Surgery. This contact identified a large gap in the provision of community health services to the local community.

2. Report

An initial meeting was held with Chris Head – Executive Director, WERN (West of England Rural Network) – with a view of identifying how best to support the provision of a Freshford Surgery by Coombe Down Practice. This meeting identified that there were preventative health practices that are not being provided to the local community – an area wider than Freshford alone.

There seems to be a gap in the provision of Village Agents and Social Prescribing within Freshford, Southstoke, Monkton Coombe and probably Hinton Charterhouse.

A follow-on exploratory meeting was set-up by BANES to look into the provision of these services along with setting up a Freshford Surgery, including:

- BANES Community Engagement
- WERN (<https://www.dhi-online.org.uk/> - <http://www.wern.org.uk/village-agents/>)
- DHI (<https://www.dhi-online.org.uk/>)
- Virgin Care

Unfortunately, the Coombe Down Practice was unable to attend, which meant that only the Village Agent and Social Prescribing aspects could be addressed at that meeting.

This was a very useful exploratory meeting, and some key points came out:

- The Village Agent facility needs to be expanded to cover areas not currently covered.
- This is to be taken forwards via the Cam Valley forum as the area covers a number of Parishes
- As Freshford and Limpley Stoke are a single community with Limpley Stoke residents having used Freshford Surgery, this initiative was confirmed by all to be community based and not subject to county borders – which is supported by BANES and Wiltshire CCGs working together

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- Some funding may be available from the Foxhill development with monies available to Coombe Down Practice to enlarge their services
- There is excellent support in BANES for Social Prescribing Link services through DHI, which are run from the surgeries
- It was agreed that Community Health would be the focus subject for the next Cam Valley Forum meeting.

Key to the provision of services are numbers. There is an interactive PDF that provides much of this information which is being obtained by BANES.

3. Next Steps

The next step is for Community Health to be the focus of the next Can Valley forum, which is for John Adler to setup being chair of this forum.

Speakers will definitely include WERN and BANES, others to be confirmed, with the objective of building a head of steam (for want of a phrase) for the immediate Parishes to participate in the setting up of Village Agents and begin to provide Community Health preventative care. General information can be found at <http://www.wern.org.uk/village-agents/>.