

Good afternoon all,

I hope you are all well 😊

Apologies that these notes have taken a little longer to get out than usual – Covid got me good and proper for the second time!

Thank you to everyone who attended July's meeting, especially Eric and Gloria who came into the Ilfracombe Centre and we were able to get them up and running on a laptop so that they could rejoin the meeting.

For those of you who were there, you'd have seen technology fail me as I played 3 minutes of a video with no sound without realising! Here is the link for you – it's a lovely little snippet of the Welcome to Exmoor trips that we did back in Spring 😊 - [Facebook](#)

A few updates came from Sarah Maddocks from Ilfracombe Town Council who asked me to remind everyone that the volunteer car service is still up and running, and provides low-cost transport for Ilfracombe residents who need lifts to medical appointments outside of town. I have attached a copy of the poster so please feel free to print and share that.

We also heard from Jody from Ilfracombe Junior School who gave a quick update that the schools were still working on the online safety campaign and had found an online training package but were now just looking for funding for that. (If anyone has any bright ideas on that then please ping me an email) 😊

We only had the one presentation this month, which was from Wendy Toms who is the Local Services Manager for the Devon and Torbay Dementia Advice Service. The service is delivered by The Alzheimer's Society, commissioned by DCC and the CCG and is available to anyone affected by dementia (friends, carers, those living with dementia etc.)

They have experienced, trained advisors who give support and advice as well as help signpost on to additional services they may need based on their personal circumstances.

They can provide support either by phone, online or face-to-face.

They also provide a Memory Matters information program. This is again for anyone who lives with dementia or are in the support network for that person. They are currently doing this via Zoom but are trying to do more face-to-face in the community and will try and do this if a certain area has a good number of people who would want to take part.

The Ilfracombe support worker is the lovely Sarah Ince who can come to your home and have a good chat with the person and their family, friend, carer etc. and help create a plan for moving forward.

At the moment they are working with GPs in Barnstaple and Bideford to be a direct service within the surgery and are also working with Older People's Mental Health Team which enables them to do joint visits.

If you'd like to know more about the work that the service delivers or to understand more about the referral path then please contact Wendy on:

Email: wendy.toms@alzheimers.org.uk

Mobile: 07711 015902

There is also an online support group called Talking Point - is

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/dementia-talking-point-our-online-community>

Other Updates

Terry Elliott told us that Minor Injuries unit at The Tyrrell is now operating for 10 weeks on Fro – Monday 10-6. Please do use this essential service to show just what demand there is, especially whilst A&E are so overwhelmed at the moment.

I have attached a poster.

She also updated that she is taking part in the next meetings around the development of the Link Centre alongside some of the service users.

Gloria added that she was delighted that the MIU had returned (even if it was only part-time).

Gloria also pointed a question to John Womersley after she has seen that in Derriford they have essentially built a large cottage/community hospital to cope with the demand on the service. She asked why there is such a focus on the South of Devon and North Devon is always left behind. John said that he agreed with her and he imagines that a lot of the decisions are led by the amount of people going through the hospital doors. He also highlighted the huge issues that a lack of staff is causing for the home care sector and why these community beds are currently needed. He continued as to how this staffing crisis is going to continue to worsen as Covid numbers carry on rising and also as we go into the winter months too.

Russ Drayton from the Link Centre told us that they have been recruiting service users to become a part of the Link Centre development meetings. He also said that he'd had interest from a number of organisations who were keen to get involved at the centre and also updated that the drop in service was also being well received now that they've restarted and that they are just working on ways that they can communicate better with their service users.

Lolly Bradley from On The Doorstep/Torrs Dental Practice updated that OTD are starting to scale back what they do as there are now so many other support groups available and they need to concentrate more on their dental practice and pushing more on their oral health education work.

Hannah McDonald from said that they were advertising for additional members of the social prescribing team (and gave a quick shout out to Kate Mercer who had joined the meeting for the first time since she started in post as one of the new SP team members). ***edit – since the meeting they have now interviewed candidates for these roles so watch this space***

Paul Rossiter from BeeZee Bodies (Devon Men's Weight Management) thanked those who had shared information about their programme. They had 80 men on the

first course and over 90% of them lost weight which was great,. They have now been re-funded so looking for more referrals so would love for you to signpost to them. You can contact Paul on paulrossiter@beezeebodies.co.uk

Anne Clayton from Living Options Devon reminded the group about their services, In Barnstaple they have their hearing and sight loss equipment service which is now back up and running; they have been doing face-to-face for quite a few months on Tuesday mornings and this by appointment only at Roundwell Community Centre. They continue to support people over the phone but there are certain people who they know they still need to see face-to-face.

The Time to Talk project came to the end of the lottery funding at the end of May so they have refocussed and continue to offer a phone line service which supports people who have a disability, feel lonely and isolated and they have a guided conversation with them. Her colleagues within the deaf-led services support people who are BSL users and they also offer counselling services for people who use BSL and also people with disabilities.

Their Waiting Well programme which supports people on waiting lists is up and running and they are also working on discharge planning.

To find out more about Living Options Devon you can contact Anne on: AnneClayton@livingoptions.org

Louise Flagg from NDVS reminded us about the Devon Connect platform and that you (or organisations) you know can upload your information to the website and also any events can go on, as can requests for volunteers.

Also, they have a monthly newsletter which gets sent out to other organisations to update them on what other organisations in the area are up to.

They has some more training offers – in October 5/12th they have face-to-face Mental Health training. It's heavily subsidised so the only charge is for the workbook and manual which makes it only around £30 each.

She also added that a job opportunity was coming up as Devon Access to Services (who are hosted by NDVS) are looking for a Project Administrator (supporting community transport across Devon).

Devon Connect can be found here –

For anything else, please email Louise on cvs@ndvs.org.uk

Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday 7th September 2022 @ 12.30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89673203921>

Meeting ID: 896 7320 3921

We have two presentations lined up for the September meeting, but if anyone would like to reserve a spot for October onwards then please let me know 😊

Many thanks,

Charmain