



**North East Locality Focus Group
Thursday 11th of August pm till 3pm 2023
Templeton Business Centre**

Present

Morag Skinner, Jim Skinner, John Ferguson, Flo Collins, Agnes Brisbane
Mary McAllister, Billy Kilpatrick, Tam Hewitt, Denis Gillespie, George Brown
Janine Bonnar, Irene Martin, Hugh Donaghy, Development Officer with RNID
Community Links Workers Michelle Coulter, and Annette Byrne.
Tony Devine Community Engagement HSCP.

Apologies

Ruth Matheson, Janette Whitelaw, James Duncanson, Frances J Graham
Bob Middleton, Lorraine Kennedy, Susan Middleton, Marie Cairns.

Item (1) Minute of Locality Engagement Forum meeting 23rd March
8th of June moved by John Ferguson seconded by Morag Skinner.

Item (2) Matters Arising no matters arising

Item (3) Suffering from Hearing Loss?

Hugh Donaghy, Development Officer with RNID explained how community-based services and assistive technology can support people to remain connected and active in their communities. Hugh said that there are approximately 11 million people with a hearing loss 8 million of them are aged 60 or over which makes it the second most common disability in the UK. However, as an invisible disability, it so often goes unnoticed making it easier for those living with hearing loss to be ignored or forgotten. 6.7 million could benefit from hearing aids but only about 2 million people use them.

In recent years, a considerable amount of scientific evidence has been published highlighting the connection between hearing loss and mental health. It's clear that there is an association between unassisted hearing loss and cognitive decline and dementia.





Important research findings published in The Lancet in 2017 stated that one in three cases of dementia could be prevented if people managed a number of lifestyle factors in midlife (between ages 40 to 65) including hearing loss.

Hugh spoke about the work of the local RNID volunteers and the important role they play providing hearing checks, replacing batteries, maintaining and renewing tubes, providing advice on how to get the best use of their hearing aids.

Hearing checks there are two ways of doing this, at drop-in centres or from home. If a person has access to a computer and headphones they can visit our website and take the check online.

The drop-in centres use iPad/headphones and volunteers would talk them through the hearing check process. If the results show that there are signs of hearing loss, then the person taking the test will get an email from our audiologist that can be printed off and taken to their doctors. Printed copies of the hearing loss letter can be provided for those who do not have an email address or access to the internet.

The meeting opened up to allow for questions and answer session below is a summary of the main point of the discussion.

Question what training do your volunteers receive?

Answer initially two and half hour's induction session this is followed by three weeks training spread over the year.

Question how much time do volunteers have to commit to?

Answer ideally six hours a month with a maximum of twelve hours a month flexible approach adopted based on what best suits the individual.

Question do you have any plans to open drop in centres in the northeast.

Answer yes we are currently developing plans to open up drop in centres in the northeast announcement to follow.





Item (4) Second Presentation Role and Remit of Community Link Workers in the Northeast Mitchell Coulter and Annette Byrne.

Mitchell explained the community links workers are based in most but not all GP practices. They provide non-medical support across a range of personal, social, emotional and financial issues, like those listed below.

- Loss and bereavement
- Loneliness
- Relationship problems
- Feeling low or anxious
- Unemployment or difficulties at work
- Worry about money, debt advice

The Community Link Worker can help pinpoint the underlying causes to poor health and wellbeing and find a way to tackle these. Leaving the GP more time to deal with medical matters.

Annette spoke about the work they do with small groups of people who are tackling a similar health or wellbeing problem, they also organise walking groups.

The meeting opened up to allow for questions and answer session below is a summary of the main point of the discussion.

Question what happens when I ask for an appointment with a Community Link Worker?

Answer you will be offered face to face meeting, telephone or online appointment.

Question how can I get an appointment with a Community Link Worker?

Answer Ask your GP or any member of the practice team.

You can also e-mail glasgowlinks@wearewithyou.org.uk with your contact details and GP Practice name.

Item (5)) Parkhead Hub Update

Members were pleased with the progress of the work on the site and asked to be kept informed of future development





Meeting Dates for North East Locality Engagement Forum 2023

Thursday 9 th February	Time: 1pm till 3pm	Templeton Room 2
Thursday 23 rd March	Time: 1pm till 3pm	Templeton Room 2
Thursday 4 th May	Time: 1pm till 3pm	Templeton Room 2
Thursday 8 th June	Time: 1pm till 3pm	Templeton Room 2
Thursday 10 th August	Time: 1pm till 3pm	Templeton Room 2
Thursday 14 th September	Time: 1pm till 3pm	Templeton Room 2
Thursday 19 th October	Time: 1pm till 3pm	Templeton Room 2
Thursday 23 rd November	Time: 1pm till 3pm	Templeton Room 2

Venue Templeton Business Centre Templeton Building Two

62 Templeton Street Glasgow G40 1DA

If you require any more information, please contact Tony Devine, details below;

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