

BOARD MEETING

Title	Resident Story – Dementia Active charity illustrating the importance of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector to population health and wellbeing.		
Paper Date:	03 July 2024	Meeting Date:	16 July 2024
Purpose:	Discussion	Agenda Item:	06
Author:	Gemma Donnelly, Chief of Allied Health Professions	Exec Lead/ Senior Responsible Officer:	Rachael Corser, Chief Nursing Officer
Executive Summary			
<p>BOB has an established Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Health Alliance to bring together the VCSE sector across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West (Reading, West Berkshire, and Wokingham).</p> <p>It works to foster collaboration among VCSE organisations and between the VCSE sector and the NHS and is a vital and supportive partner to BOB policy and strategy development. The importance of the VCSE sector to our residents in BOB will be illustrated by this conversation and the alliance has recently published a report with several recommendations to support these organisations and the people who work in them.</p> <p>Our Research – BOB VCSE Health Alliance</p> <p>The BOB joint forward plan “Age well” strategy pledges to provide multi-disciplinary integrated care involving health care, social care and VCSE for people as their conditions become more complex and they become frail; and identify and support unpaid carers to maintain their own health and wellbeing and their ability to care for their friends and relatives. This is particularly relevant to people with dementia and their families. A person’s risk of developing dementia rises from one in 14 over the age of 65, to one in six over the age of 80, and there are an increasing number of people in BOB living with dementia.</p> <p>Dementia Active Banbury</p> <p>Dementia Active is a charity with an established track record in providing social activity groups for people who have a diagnosis of dementia. Dementia is an illness which can isolate people from former friends. The value of spending time with others who can share this sense of isolation cannot be overestimated: The charity aims to create a sense of community where no one need feel apologetic or uncomfortable about not being able to do those things which in the past would have been straightforward.</p> <p>They offer a wide range of activities, for instance: topical discussions, gentle exercise, dancing, arts and crafts, gardening and every few weeks - a professional entertainer. A three-course lunch is provided as well as refreshments throughout the sessions. Groups are small and have a high staff to members ratio.</p> <p>Helen Burgess, an Occupational Therapist who works both for the NHS and the charity, and a member’s husband, Bob, will be attending Board to highlight their experiences of Dementia Active, the benefits to being part of the charity and the importance of this resource for them.</p>			

Action Required	
<p>The Board are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to the voice and lived experience of both a carer and a member of staff at the charity. • Reflect on the challenges faced by a group of people with dementia and the importance of the VCSE sector to them and their families and carers. • Discuss how the ICB can further support the development of links between NHS providers and the VCSE sector and support the small but impactful charitable organisations in the light of the recent report outcomes – for example. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>How could you create more shared learning and development opportunities across sector boundaries?</i> ○ <i>What could you do to encourage a higher degree of professional mobility between the NHS and VCSE sectors?</i> ○ <i>What could NHS colleagues do differently that would ensure their VCSE colleagues feel more equally valued as professionals and leaders.</i> 	
Conflicts of Interest:	No conflict identified.
Date/Name of Committee/ Meeting, Where Last Reviewed:	N/A