**Winchester District Older Person’s Partnership**

**Virtual meeting held on 17th November 2021**

**Present:**  
  
Sarah Weekes – Chair stand in, St John’s Winchester

Teresa Ross – Secretary, St John’s Winchester  
Frances Strange – Age Concern/ Twyford surgery PPG  
Gary Marsh – Andover Mind (Dementia Advice)  
Mark Maitland WCC,  
Lys Pollard - Dementia Friends  
Dawn Sandler - Sunrise  
Julie Gallagher – Trading Standards

Judy Beaunier - Andover Mind

Carol Bailey – Winchester Churches Together

Tony Winterton – Home Instead

Marie Johnson-Hall - St John’s Hand in Hand  
Graham Topping – Winchester Rotary

Rebecca Hynard-Hicks – St John’s Winchester

Lou Hooper – HCC Extra Care Housing

Cllr Angela Clear - WCC, Communities and Wellbeing

Molly Haeri – Creative Minds

Brenda Pullen – HCC Connect to Support  
Amanda Watkinson – Move Momentum  
Avril Steele – St Cross Hospital  
Amy Houghton – Sovereign Housing Association  
Hannah Henshaw – Winchester Good Neighbours  
Sarah Wallis – WCC Housing Support  
Shane O’Connell – Elder Life Fitness

Julie – Butterflies Bereavement Support  
Liam Gifford – Play to the Crowd  
Hannah Jones – Play to the Crowd

1. **Welcome and Introduction, Confirmation of minutes.**

**Apologies:**

Anna Miles (MHA Communities Winchester), Anna O’Brien (Winchester Radio), Lesley Rose (CAB Winchester), Pam Gilbert, Angie Mills (Sporting Memories)

**2. Play to the Crowd – Andrew Loretto, Hannah Jones, Liam Gifford**Playmakers have been working throughout Covid on various projects including Wintopia.

Hannah works with community centres, care homes and groups and would like to meet with organisations to discuss current and future projects. The Carnival ‘Take to the Streets’ will be back next year as part of the Hat Fair on 1st July and Hannah will be working with 10-12 schools and older community groups and care homes in the Winchester area to collaborate and make costumes and decorations for the carnival. Please email Hannah if there are any projects you wish to discuss, she is very open to new ideas.

Discussions and collaborations can be adapted to be live, remote or hybrid, according to need. hannah.j@playtothecrowd.co.uk.  
Liam works with the under 25s and there is an exciting opportunity for older people to be involved in a new play ‘Superglue’ by Tim Crouch. Rehearsals are underway, but they are looking for 11 performers aged 60-80 - 10 (predominantly sitting) non-speaking roles (9 female, 1 male) and 1 speaking role (female)Performance dates: Theatre Royal Winchester on Thurs 30th March, Fri 1st April

MAST Mayflower Studios, Southampton on Sun 1st May

There is very little commitment to rehearsals, with times and dates to be discussed with interested individuals. It is a 45 minute play with the young actors playing the younger versions of the older ones. Please email Liam if you know of any older potential thespians who would be interested.  
liam@playtothecrowd.co.uk.

**3.Creative Minds**This is a social enterprise group offering art sessions to care homes, community settings and social prescribing. The sessions last 1.5 hours and are stimulating and varied with painting, sculpture etc. Materials are provided and can run weekly or fortnightly depending on need. The cost is £70 for 10 participants. Can also provide 1-1 sessions. Molly has experience teaching art and photography and working with dementia with Andover Mind. For one-to-one sessions Molly will discuss the charge on a case by case basis and provide information.   
molly.haeri@creativeminds.art [www.creativeminds.art](http://www.creativeminds.art)

**4. Community Connectors**

St John’s are expanding its Hand in Hand service to accept self-referrals and referrals from the wider community. The team have launched a Community Connectors project which helps spread the word calling on our community to ask anyone who supports, socialises, or works with local older people to act as a St John’s Hand in Hand Community Connector. A Community Connector is someone who links others to their local community with activities and organisations that can help improve their quality of life. The Hand in Hand team will support referrals and signpost older people to local charities, and organisations who offer support and advice to allow them to access information to help connect to the wider community. Community Connectors could be taxi drivers, retailers – anyone who identifies an older person who would benefit from extra support or services. They can refer themselves or others by telephone, email or the website. Hand in Hand would then contact them and give support to access information or volunteers. The Hand in Hand team can support older people on a short term basis to access information or at times this may be longer, for around 12 weeks. The team make sure they provide a friendly follow up to give a helping hand if needed. Hand in Hand have Volunteer befrienders who also help older people gain confidence going out and about. These volunteers can help to escort to clubs until confidence has grown. Flyers and marketing materials will be circulated to those known by St John’s and the WDOPP about this project.

**5. Election of Secretary**

Teresa is leaving St John’s and therefore a new secretary is required for the next meeting.

Please email any expressions of interest, or if anyone within your organisation can do it.

Anna agreed in the last meeting to Chair into next year when a new Chair will need to be elected.

**6. AOB**

Graham spoke of the Winchester Stroke Support Club, run by the Rotary at Christchurch. This runs twice a month and is open to all ages. Information attached.

Angela congratulated the group for excellent collaboration. Asked whether services extend to southern parishes, not just central Winchester. Frances replied that Age Concern covers all of Hampshire and Sarah mentioned that there are other services covering rural areas helping to prevent social isolation.

Sarah had a request from the group. One of the residents at St John’s has undiagnosed learning difficulties and St Johns are finding it incredibly difficult to access support for him regarding finances. He is in an extremely vulnerable position but can get no help from agencies, Social Services, or the GP as they constantly refer from one to the other, with no outcome. If he wasn’t at St John’s, he would be at risk of being homeless. If anyone has any advice or experience they can share, please contact Sarah or Beccy at St John’s.

Julie from Butterflies Bereavement Support advised that Paul Burrows left in the summer and therefore they are concentrating on the core services of bereavement counselling and friendship. Hoping to expand groups at a later stage, so still flying!

Julie Gallagher is retiring from Trading Standards on 15th Dec, following a change in structure. It is being stripped back to food safety and animal health etc. so no more talks and presentations at this stage.

Winchester Good Neighbours have a new free number – 0800 6126480.

Shane spoke of Elder Life Fitness with an exercise and fitness class running at 10.30 on Mondays at Week Community Centre. Easton Village Hall due to start in the new year. They also offer 1-1 exercise, or group exercise in the community. See updates for further details.

From Anna at Winchester Radio via email: Hampshire Hospitals are holding their next 'Health Focus' event - it takes place online on Monday 22 November at 6:30pm.

Theme is 'Cancer Care for the Future'.

To book free place, in order to be sent the link, book here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hhft-health-focus-cancer-care-for-the-future-tickets-191574784337>

**Next Meeting scheduled for March next year. Date TBC**.   
Mark said there may be potential for a hybrid meeting at the Guildhall with some face to face and some virtual, as technology is potentially there but may need a practise run.  
Andrew offered the Theatre Royal as they already have the technology in use, including a big screen, and would be happy to host. Currently limited to 12 in person.

**UPDATES received via email are included below.**

**WCC Updates Nov 2021**

***Council Tax***

**Disabled Band Reduction:**

If there is a permanently disabled person living in the property as their main home (not necessarily the council tax payer) and they require at least one of the following in order to meet the needs of their disability:-

* A room (other than a bathroom, kitchen or toilet) used mainly by the disabled person to meet their needs
* An **additional** bathroom or kitchen adapted for use by the disabled person
* Space in the dwelling to allow for the use of a wheelchair

**Severely Mentally Impaired (SMI) discount / exemption:**

A person must be certified by their doctor to be severely mentally impaired on the grounds that they have "severe impairment of intelligence and social functioning, which appears to be permanent" and the person must be in receipt of a particular type of state benefits – all listed on our website or contact us for further details.  
When considering the Council Tax and the number of residents in a property –

* if all but one resident is certified as SMI - a 25% discount is available
* if all residents are certified SMI – a 100% exemption is available (so no Council Tax is payable).

***Benefits & Welfare***

**Household Support Fund (HSF)**

The government has announced a new scheme to support those most in need this winter which will run until 31 March 2022. The HSF will primarily be used to support households which are most in need of food, energy and water bills. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, it can be used additionally to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need.

Initial control of the finance is with the County but we understand they plan to reallocate the funding to us (district / tier 2 authorities) to create our own schemes. We are awaiting further information but HCC advise that full details will be published on the connect4communities website when it is available, so residents can be directed there:   
[*connect4communities | Children and Families | Hampshire County Council (hants.gov.uk)*](https://scanner.topsec.com/?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hants.gov.uk%2Fsocialcareandhealth%2Fchildrenandfamilies%2Fconnectforcommunities&r=show&t=16e57f123871ab2e305664931f70d2e455fae645&d=2475)

**CTR & HB**A reminder to Pensioners that Council Tax Reduction & Housing Benefit is available for those on a low income. Speak to Benefits Dept. of local authority.

**Surviving Winter Fund (Citizens Access)**

Over 60s on low income and living in Hampshire could be eligible for a grant to help stay warm this winter (heating, clothing and food). The grant can be accessed through your local Citizens Advice service. To find out more call them on 0808 278 7861 or email [advice@cawinchesterdistrict.org.uk](mailto:advice@cawinchesterdistrict.org.uk)

**Extra Care**

We currently have vacancies in our Extra Care schemes for over 55’s with an ongoing need for personal care either contact me [sturpitt@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:sturpitt@winchester.gov.uk) or Claire Carroll [ccarroll@wincheter.gov.uk](mailto:ccarroll@wincheter.gov.uk) for more information.

**Connect to Support Hampshire November update**   
Each month we sent out a Connect to Support Hampshire monthly update . We hope it is useful in highlighting resources on [Connect to Support Hampshire](http://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/)  as well as key messages from the Adults’ Health and Care department at Hampshire County Council. If anyone would like to be receive this monthly email please contact [Brenda.Pullen@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Brenda.Pullen@hants.gov.uk) .   
**Hampshire PA Finder website update and Hampshire’s Call to Care campaigns’**Hampshire County Council has launched a [Call to Care](http://www.calltocareinhampshire.co.uk/) campaign – encouraging people to consider a career in care – linking to various opportunities and careers in care across Hampshire.In addition, we have launched a new marketing campaign encouraging people to consider becoming a **Personal Assistant (PA) in Care**, which sits under the umbrella of the Call to Care campaign. This will link to the [Hampshire PA Finder](https://www.hampshirepafinder.org.uk/home) website – a free service to connect people who want to work as a PA in Care with people needing support.   
We have **printed posters** and **flyers** to support the campaign – if this is something you are able to promote to the people you support, this would be very much appreciated – please let Brenda Pullen know and she will arrange delivery.

**St John`s Hand in Hand Service**We have started to implement the community connectors approach offering support in the community for older people. We’ve been working with the 3 GP surgeries in Winchester and are now opening our referral pathways so community connectors (the public) can refer their family or people they know to St John’s by providing information from us on how to contact St John’s Hand in Hand team and find out what we can offer. We have had a good start with a few of the local high street cafes, banks, shops signing up to be connectors. We have successfully supported scheme members to set up and run a `Younger Older` person café group which is held weekly on Mondays 10-12 at The Project café in Winchester. Our Hand in Hand Volunteers are continuing to support scheme members via telephone befriending and home visits.   
We are continuing to recruit volunteers with a focus on mature volunteers at present.   
November saw our 3rd year anniversary since the launch of the hand in hand service. During this time, we have supported over 300 scheme members. This has been through befriending, sign posting and social prescribing clinics. We celebrated befriender week 1-7 November with some lovely photos and quotes from members and volunteers.

**Andover Mind**  
Carer support service is continuing to receive referrals from any carer in need, the Winchester Carer and Cared For Support Group is being well attended and we would welcome any new enquiries for this group.

**Trading Standards**  
As I mentioned at the last meeting, Trading Standards have been under review. We now have the service plan and how the new structure will look.  The new structure if very much based on our statutory duties and intelligence led.  The team I worked on, the Safeguarding Team, does not appear on the plan, and as yet I have no idea if any safeguarding work will continue, if it does it will not be in the same capacity.

I have taken Voluntary Redundancy and leave on 15th December 21. As far as I know there are no plans for any other officer to take on the presentations and talks. Julie.

**Butterflies Bereavement Support**  
Paul Burrows-Gibson has left Butterflies Bereavement Support and Julie is now running it on a day to day basis for the time being. The trustees have also changed the criteria of our services in as much as we are providing bereavement counselling and a telephone friendship service. We have three groups in the west of the county but hope to extend that in the New Year.

**Winchester Radio**

Our studio at the RHCH was made covid-secure last year, but we have kept the number of volunteers using it to absolute minimum during the pandemic, with some of the on-air team continuing to broadcast from home. Ongoing discussions with the hospital continue about when our ward-visiting volunteers at Winchester Radio will be able to resume going back round the wards and visiting patients again face to face. In the meantime we continue to receive requests via the phone and email.

All of our charity team are volunteers and a number put in full-time+ hours each week to sustain our service to the community. We were delighted that long-standing volunteer Nigel Dallard who has selflessly volunteered with the charity since 1987, had all his efforts recognised at the recent annual national 'Community Radio Awards' - winning the Gold award in the 'Volunteer of the Year' category for all the voluntary work he does off-air, behind the scenes. When you are volunteering, it is always lovely to get a thank you for your efforts helping others.  
Many thanks to those charities and grassroots community groups/organisations on this list who already send us your news at Winchester Radio. Remember if you have adapted the way you deliver your support, and/or if you are offering new services for older people to help them through the winter period etc. then do email and let our charity know, so we can share on air how people can access this support. Send us details to: **info@winchester.radio**Also, in terms of Christmas - if any charity/not-for-profit/grassroots community group on this list would like to send us an audio message (up to 30 seconds long which is approx 75 spoken words) for listeners wishing them well for the festive season (no calls to action/advertising - simply a heartfelt thank you message for our older audience wishing them well for Christmas and 2022), then please do! Love to hear from you. Please email wav. or mp3 files (which you can record on your mobile phones), direct to me, or via email to: **info@winchester.radio** Deadline for doing this is Friday 10th December. Thanks.

**Winchester Churches Seniors' Group**

We met last week for a catch up and a bit of mutual support for the work with seniors within the City.  Some activities had continued, notably at MHA (Jewry Street) and more generally the pastoral work within the parishes.  Some groups were now re-starting with Beehives at St Barnabas, Winchester Well-Being Lunch Clubs, Silver Service at Winbap, monthly cream teas at Christchurch, the resumption of 'Sages' programme of events which was a mix of zoom and in person meetings at Christchurch, and with across the board visits to care homes recommencing.

There is some fantastic Pastoral Visiting Training happening at St Pauls, and plans are in place for next year: [The Winchester Cathedral Tea@3](mailto:Tea@3) recommences in the New Year, we are pushing ahead with visiting small groups in their communal lounges, picking up where we left off in Nursing Homes, a Whitsun Picnic, and before then a day-time Carol Service this Christmas at St Barnabas.

We have found that many of our seniors are now getting Covid although, thankfully, the majority have been double jabbed and been less badly affected as a result.

Should you require any further information on what is happening locally please do not hesitate to get in touch. Carol.   
missiontoseniors@winbap.org.uk

**Elder Life Fitness**

We provide exercise and fitness sessions for adults over the age of 60. We are a new business and we aim to help and assist older people to maintain their independence through exercise, fall prevention and general fitness wellbeing.

The services we offer are:

1 to 1 exercise

Group exercise in the local community

Or both the above, whether you live at home or in a retirement village, retirement home, supported housing, independent living, sheltered housing or a residential care home. We can come to you and use the space you have!

Our current local community classes are at Weeke Community Centre, Every Monday at 1030-1130. This can be booked online through our website. New classes will be appearing on the website as and when the demand is there.  
We're happy to come and chat with people to find the best solution is staying active in later life.  
[www.elderlifefitness.co.uk](http://www.elderlifefitness.co.uk/)