

Health and Wellbeing sub group 15/11/19

Present Anne Mitchell (convenor) Gillian Smith Andy Malarky
Apologies Laura Sexton

The purpose of this meeting as first in the new session of the community council was to establish goals for the next years work within the community.

It was agreed that rather than set fixed terms and reference the group would work best with continued relationships being reinforced with;
The GP practice
Health in Mind
The environment subgroup
The Priory Community Support Group including the Foodbank and Housing and Family support teams

The GP practice has been asked by QCCC for figures around health indicators of deprivation as currently accessible figures are for Edinburgh or North West Edinburgh rather than Queensferry as a distinct area on its own. We have helped advertise the current Flu vaccination service. Sadly the practice is losing the nurse dedicated to mental health issues.

It was agreed that groups such as EVOC and matters impacting on the older community members would be attended by Gillian and fed back into the group. Gillian will remain our link with QCCC but not in relation to the new community facility. Anne will report on the latter.

Health in Mind is progressing well with one successful course in anxiety management run and a second underway with a third in the planning stages for early next year. There is a core of local people now trained and able to facilitate a drop in session. This started in the Little Gem café but has moved to Roseberry hall. There will be a break over Christmas and then resume in the New Year.

The subgroup would like to explore the community needs for our young people and potentially for Veterans living in the area.

The subgroup would like to work with the Priory group to raise awareness of the support it can offer people.

There is a concern that some new people to the area find themselves socially isolated with no existing support system or friends living here. The churches already have a welcome postcard with information about the churches and we would like to see if we can work together to include helpful contacts for people. Anne will discuss with Wendy Auld.

EDG has continued to work with families to develop a playgroup for children with additional support needs with the first session being run soon.

Homestart is starting to work within the area with families and young children who need support. They are looking for local volunteers and willing to work with Anne to develop an advert for this.

The community is progressing well in regard to defibrillator placement with 2 future plans for the wall of JW physio on the High street and the Church of Scotland on the Loan has also sourced funding. The obvious areas that are not covered are the station, Echline and Farquar Terrace /Society road. There are 4 defibrillators that currently are held within premises that we would like to approach the owners to make these public access, improving community resilience. Having run Queensferry CPR week last year is there an appetite to have this run again –although perhaps not quite so many sessions?

QCCC has raised enough money to purchase a trishaw and will be looking for drivers to train in the coming months

There have been several maps and walks sourced which now need collated into one map to encourage walking within the area.

Also looking at fitness within the area –Just Eat who is providing bikes for hire across Edinburgh is willing to look at this area depending on the ability to find a suitable permanent site for a bike rack.

Pharmacy; The appeal by Will Sampson was supported and attended by Anne but unfortunately was rejected. Mr Sampson intends to appeal this decision. Minutes of the original appeal will be forwarded to members of the health and well being sub committee to see if there is any more that can be done.

Afterschool club; the after school club is oversubscribed have been looking at ways to create additional capacity. The SQUIDS after school club that operates from the Community Centre located behind QPS which is the old QPS building consisting of the 1970's temporarily school building and the former 1920's school building annex. The Rosebery Hall management committee has been freeing up the use of the room in the annex building after 3pm by moving groups around. This has created availability Tues, Wed, & Thurs, p.m. Unfortunately because SQUIDS would be using a different building they had to get approval from the Care Commission.

An inspection was subsequently carried out but provided a report with a list of required improvements as well as wanting further detailed information about the heating system, water hygiene, frequency of checks and operational temperatures. The major stumbling block is that there is no disabled toilet in this building. The Rosebery Hall MC are looking at whether it is possible to have a disabled toilet installed in the building and are awaiting a visit from CEC Property Services Surveyor to see if this is possible and what the costs might be! There are several challenges being; does the council have the budget for this and what would the timescale be. As a temporary measure Karen McGregor QPS Head Teacher has offered the use of the schools disabled toilet just across the playground.

The Rosebery Hall management Committee (RHMC) working with SQUIDS has carried out repair and improvement work as listed by the care commission and provided the detailed information requested. Unfortunately despite this work and a temporary solution to the provision of disabled toilet facilities the care commission has declined to approve the building.

SQUIDS and RHMC intend writing to the Care commission reiterating that they have a temporary solution for access to disabled toilets and that a permanent solution is being investigated. They want to have building approval for use at the start of term in Jan '20. The demand for children's places is now not sometime in

the future and the nearest alternative facility is in Kirkliston with no means for children to get from their school to the club there. I would like permission from the full council to write a letter of support for SQUIDS and Roseberry hall management committee on behalf of QDCC. In the ideal world we could access a new building but as that doesn't exist and children regularly use this building for other activities it seems short sighted to dismiss this facility.