

Eden Health and Wellbeing Board 6th October 2020.
Report by Dr Michael Hanley.

Present: Judith Woof (Health and Wellbeing Officer), Judith Derbyshire (EDC), Dr Michael Hanley (EDC), John Redgate (HWC), Jackie Dodd (Public Health Manager), Shane Byrne (DWP), Becky Underwood, Phil Dew (EDC), Dani Leslie (Eden Carers)

Covid-19 Update

Jackie Dodd (JD): There has been an increase in Covid infections across the county. Colin Cox (Public Health Physician) sends out a report every week. In Eden there has been 667 cases since the start of the pandemic and 23 cases in the last week. These are still relatively low numbers. The Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Board met in July. There are two priorities: 1. To develop new services, 2. Sustain the regulated care market (care homes). Care providers are getting a lot of support from the County Council. Cumbria Public Health Alliance has various priorities: social prescribing, planning, transport and connectivity, poverty, food and healthy weight. There is also the Eden Community Resilience Forum which looks at the economy, health and wellbeing.

Eden Children and Young People Working Group: This is looking at tackling overweight and obesity, mental health. It is important to make Eden attractive to young people. A lot of work is being done to make this area more attractive to young people. We have a problem in keeping our young people.

Phil Dew (PD): He chairs a young peoples' group (Eden Youth Council). They have focused on healthy weight and health foods. Also a group has gone into schools to promote mental health. A member of the council wrote an article on rurality and mental health. The EYC would like there to be a drop in service for schools providing advice about mental health. JD asked if two members of the EYC could come to speak and do a presentation to the board.

The discussion went on to Covid in Care Homes. I had attended the Cumbria Health Scrutiny Board immediately before this meeting and Peter Rooney from NCIC (North Cumbria Secondary Care) said that all elderly patients were tested for Covid prior to discharge to a nursing home. PD said he had heard that some hospitals were wanting to discharge Covid positive elderly patients to nursing homes but this does not seem to be happening locally.

Shane Byrne (SB-DWP): Discussed youth support. Unemployment in Eden in the last few months has been static, but it's going to increase. The DWP wants to increase the number of work coaches. There are about 2000 youth claims (18-24) at the moment. Furlough will be finishing soon and there will be a big increase in unemployment. SB is concerned about youth unemployment, it's the younger generation who always suffer the most. The best person to be employed at interview is usually the more mature.

Youth hubs will work with this, which will lead to youth employability coaches. SB wondered whether the Health and Wellbeing Coaches could become involved. The focus of the coaches are: has the person got the right employability skills, can they write a CV, do they need a passport, can they drive, do they have a mobile phone, can they use Zoom? If they become longterm unemployed they can get stuck there. If they are unemployed for more than six months, they are less attractive to the employer. This is all part of the Kickstart Programme which provides a job for 26 weeks, paid for by the government and the employer receives £1500. All of this is available to other age groups. JETS (Job Entry Targeted Support) is a similar initiative. There has been poor uptake with telephone interviews with a 40% DNA rate.

Michael Hanley: Asked whether GP surgeries could be involved with Kickstart. SB said yes.

PD: If the hub is in Penrith then people in outlying areas will have difficulty accessing the service.

SB: If there are increased numbers in outlying areas hubs will be set up there. There has been a

£20 (? per week) increase in Universal Credit until March 21. Things would have been worse if we still had Job Seekers Allowance.

Judith Derbyshire: Could the training include teaching the young person to drive? SB: The DWP has been involved with teaching young people to drive in the past.

Update on Welfare Support.

JD: The Community Resilience Forum has asked the Health and Wellbeing Board to overview welfare support. There has been a great deal of financial hardship. The Citizen's Advice Bureau gives advice on benefits. Christians Against Poverty has employed an extra worker. Support has been given to the Credit Union and all Food Banks.

PD: How do you access services if you are living in outlying areas. Posters are needed to advertise the support that can be given especially where there is poverty.

Green Homes Grant.

Judith Woof (JW): Judith had put in a bid for this money. The bid was successful and the grant is for £500k to improve 45 households. There is a potential for a lot more than this. Eden was the only district council in Cumbria to put in a bid. There are two elements to the scheme: a local authority delivery and a voucher element which is open to anybody and not connected to income where technical estimates can be arranged on a property. The scheme will focus on low income households where the income is less than £30k. The purpose is to have warm homes. The pilot starts in October and finishes at the end of March. It will focus on wards that are high in fuel poverty and low income (outside National Park areas, due to planning permission difficulties). The money will be spent in cavity wall and loft insulation and air source heat pumps up to a total value of £10k. The first phase will focus on Alston Moor, Brough and Langwathby where there are extreme weather events. The second phase will be open to Kirkoswald, Hesket, Penrith West and Skelton. EON will be a partner with the scheme. Any company doing the work will need Trust Mark Accreditation. They will also have to give apprenticeship opportunity. We finished with discussions on flu vaccination by large organisations and suicide prevention.