**Rushmoor Voluntary Sector Forum**

**September 15th, 2021 – Zoom Meeting**

**Meeting Notes**

**Welcome**

Donna welcomed those attending and explained the focus of the Forum is Community Development. This theme had been developed in response to feedback from member organisations who want to skill up in response to the pandemic.

Link to all the presentations on RVS Website:

**1. A Framework for Community Development – Heather Chalkley, RVS**

Heather gave an overview of development approaches forming the framework for working with communities. Heather used the example of Hawley Community Garden to demonstrate how these approaches are interlinked when working in communities.

**Questions and Answers for Heather**

**Q. How does a community garden work as a shared space – how is produce distributed?**

**A.** It was agreed that members are household members, and they pay a membership fee for the whole household. At harvest time, whoever is at the garden can harvest ‘pick and grow’ produce such as spinach. Larger crops are weighed to keep a record of the crop and divided between households by weight.

**2. NHS CCG Approach to Community Engagement – Steve Manley and Nisha Duggal**

NHS England have developed a framework to help the organisation in their approach to community engagement. The CCG want to understand how they can have local relationships and ensure there are local opportunities for people to engage. Nisha promoted campaigns to ensure people go to the right place at the right time for treatment.

**Questions and Answers for Steve and Nisha**

**i** **Q.** The pandemic has hit the deprived areas more than the more affluent areas. These areas cannot get face to face meetings with GPS. The CCG has a good programme, but ordinary people will not want to engage in these. The forums set up with professionals, who are prepared to be accountable, will have an impact.

**A**. Steve – there is a huge focus across all areas of service provision to understand the inequalities. We have access to a huge amount of data, partnership working has improved because of the pandemic, so we can really interrogate and understand the data. This will inform where we need to have conversations with people, to understand the challenges they are facing and ensure they have the information they need to make the right decisions about their treatment.

**ii.** **Q.** Is there any news on flu vaccination deliveries?

 **A.** No update but Steve will provide an update to go out with the meeting notes.

**3. Community - Leah Campbell, Action Hampshire**

Leah set out the wider context around community development based on her background in humanitarian work. She used her experience of bringing that knowledge to community-based engagement and development.

**Questions and Answers for Leah**

No questions raised.

**4. A.O.B**

i. Farnborough Lions are holding their first Quiz Charity Night on 16th October

ii. RVS are running Senior First Aider Training Course staring Monday 4th October

**5. Closing**

Donna thanked the speakers for valuable and insightful presentations and thanked those attending for joining the Forum.

**Date of next meeting - Wednesday 15th December**