

Agenda Item 8. G. Re-engaging with your Community: Older People in Wales

I recently attended an excellent online event entitled "Re-engaging with your Community: Older People in Wales".

It was a really interesting and invigorating online event which taps absolutely into how to continue the heightened community engagement resurgent during the pandemic, especially to help the older or more vulnerable in our community.

For example, in the OCC's article in the October issue of The Oracle we mentioned that we were looking into the mechanics of a telephone befriending service to help combat loneliness and isolation in older people during what will be a difficult few months ahead. Well, Re-engage are already doing this - "Call Companions" - so there is no need for us to "reinvent" any wheels and we could publicise the service so people know about it. Here is more information about this : <https://www.reengage.org.uk/join-a-group/>

We could publicise this via Facebook etc but a theme which ran throughout the event was how to address the digital divide and reach those people who are NOT on line. One of the guest speakers was an older lady who volunteers with Re-engage and is on their Steering Committee and she was fabulous! She has been thinking about how best to get information - for example information on the befriending service which Re-engage provides, but in reality this could be any information / initiative - to those who need it who are NOT on line. Her thoughts were:

- include information in free magazines - so in the case of Overton this would include the Oracle but also Essentials Magazine
- ask the pharmacy to include details (perhaps in the form of a flyer) with prescriptions on a fairly regular basis (I thought this was a brilliant idea)
- on a Borough-wide level is there any reason why information could not also be included with annual council tax bills? (Perhaps we could ask John McCusker to broach this with WCBC?)

Attached here are my summary report of the whole event as well as the slides. If you're interested to read / hear more, then I've also got the slides for the guest speakers which I'd be happy to send on to anyone who'd like to read them. If you have some time you could also listen to the presentation as well. It's 1.5 hours long but even if you only skim through it, if you had the time you might find it very worthwhile

Link to the recording:

Topic: Re-engaging with your Communities: Older People in Wales
Start Time : Oct 29, 2020 10:42 AM

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/apzeJUaPdG-M5lr05XUWIRh_y1koQ2JX1MuCizl2_Lel24NncZJSJIXyxnDC9PGJ.4QvjxyLibDpzRG0K

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