

WAVOCC Workshop – Next Steps for Preventive Services: Fri 10th July 2009

A small group of interested people met after the AGM to explore the future and current Preventive Services agenda for older people.

We had quite a lengthy discussion on the priorities for older people in respect to health, wellbeing, safety and inclusion and came up with the following list, in no particular order:

- Access to transport
- Local and sophisticated advice
- Support and access to lifestyle choices
- Available health screening
- Access to employment
- Financial security and benefits
- Exercise
- Access to local services
- Support to take part in community events/activities
- Involved as a community member
- Affordable and appropriate housing
- Opportunities for intergenerational activities
- Reduction of social isolation and loneliness

Some of the related points/issues in connection with these are:

- Partnership working and collaboration
- Practice based commissioning and health centres as Hubs for information and events
- The need to measure effective services
- Risk taking versus safeguarding
- Differences in charging for services

We then had a discussion around sustainability of services and made the following points:

- Introduction of social enterprises
- The full value of volunteers
- Taster sessions as a precursor to formal charged events
- Set up costs for groups including facilitation
- Vol Orgs usually require full cost recovery

We then began to run out of time but made the following observations:

- Its is important to try and measure wellbeing although numbers of people reached are important.
- Hard to reach groups, additionally include carers, individuals, older people who have no identified needs.

Our parting conclusion was that it had been helpful in meeting up to start some of the wider discussions required and to illustrate that we all were keen to work in partnership and respect each others concerns and agenda.