

GENERAL

WIGAN BOROUGH VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE (VCSE) SECTOR CONVENTION

The Wigan Borough Community Partnership (WBCP) are organising a Wigan Borough Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector Convention that will take place on 15th February 2018 at DW Stadium. Please save the date and a formal Eventbrite booking notice will come out in early January. The Convention is open to all VCSE sector organisations, however big or small.

To prepare for the Convention, the WBCP are keen to engage and consult with the sector and would really appreciate you completing the survey below via the attached link. There are 11 questions most of which have tick box answers so it should take you 5 -10 minutes at most to complete. Closing date for completion of the survey will be 15th December.

Your views and opinions matter and will help inform the agenda for the Convention.

We will also feed back to you the results of the survey at the Convention.

<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=151134353916>

Feel free to cascade this to other organisations within Wigan Borough

OFFER OF CONTAINERS FOR STORAGE

We currently have a number of grey containers that we need to dispose. In the past we have been asked if we can donate them for schools, charities, or council facilities to use for storage, and as they have little or no scrap value we are more than happy to do this.

We can arrange to deliver the container, however once we drop it the recipient would need to be able to remove the legs to make it stable and to move it to wherever on the site it will be used– all 4 legs must be removed.

Measurements –

Height of legs (floor to base of container)

1.1 meters

Container

Width – 2.3 meters

Height – 2.2 meters

Length – 4.9 meters

We will donate these on a first come first served basis and anyone interested should contact Craig Clayton on 01924 834915.

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ARE YOU A CARER IN THE WIGAN BOROUGH?

Then why not join in the activities that Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre have planned for January 2018.

As well as the regular weekly events and monthly groups, the Carers Centre has a variety of sessions and courses for you to come along to, have fun and learn something new including:

- Paint, Pastel and Palette Knives Six Week Course,
- Mindfulness Six Week Course,
- Stressbuster Session for Male Carers,
- Dementia Medication Awareness session,
- Get Digital weekly one to one sessions and the Appy team are also in the centre once a month
- Kick off Your Shoes and Dance sessions with Hurst Dance Studios

All of the training is free to registered carers

Visit www.wiganandleighcarerscentre.org.uk, like WLCC's, Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pat.millward.31> and click to receive notifications or email gail@wiganandleighcarerscentre.org.uk

OVERCROWDED A&E IN 'STAY AWAY' PLEA

Health chiefs issued a fresh "stay away" warning to all but strict emergency cases as Wigan A&E faced overload again.

Doctors and nursing staff have complained of "severe pressure" on services and the WWL health trust is asking patients to think carefully about the best place to seek appropriate treatment. Casualty departments should only be used for serious illness. They are there to provide immediate emergency care for people who show the symptoms such as blacking out, bleeding you can't stop, severe chest pain, choking, loss of consciousness, stroke. These are all emergencies which require urgent hospital care.

Clinical Commissioning Group chairman Dr Tim Dalton explained how these A&E pressures can build. He said: "When people attend A&E, one of two things happen: they are either seen; given advice/medication and sent home or they are admitted in to the hospital and given a bed so further tests can be done.

If everyone who goes to A&E can go home afterwards, then A&E runs really smoothly. "If everyone who attends A&E needs a bed, then we have problems. After all we only have a finite number of beds in hospitals, and most of them are used for routine operations and ongoing care.

"Lots of things impact on whether a patient is admitted or sent home and therefore impacts on the pressure on A&E. The obvious one is the nature of the illnesses and injuries presenting that day. "Or it could be the age of the patient, the time of day they attend or even the member of staff that sees them.

"A&E is there for serious, life-threatening illnesses and injuries; emergencies in other words. A good proportion of people who go to A&E don't really fit this description. "They could have seen their GP or gone to a walk-in centre in the borough. Or frankly, some of them could have spent a day in bed resting up. That is the truth. And if they did that, A&E would rarely be under pressure."

CYBER CRIME

The first link to the National Cyber Security Centre provides a host of downloadable pdfs dealing with things from protecting your passwords, to cyber security for small businesses, to managing information risk:

https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/LoOYQ_OuXtF0msWrsH-3dj4qi7zKBvhoostlg2hVcvM=?d=y5ZSZggdcq5oGYQXnlkQu7CnBo5KnDSt2O_ms_rbts84yu8r_q5CQX8vk6ZTa833Z1tUrieJeVBU_YfQEsRKqTaR-ZUuQq6U0Nng0Qf-eKyaVkv2_X8XF_C1n9hqfheTcMLvxAdL5GoIMA46LpPWxzS9Oe99_s-Tj_30IjB1pNd_EGzZpeNr9beQPVTgYaccqLFx87Tt-Bp_fDNI9Pn4D1kt5zDVfD2CSGQRXULwytr61tHwu43ppVj3CYumwJhJqrylk2SZbwAXVKS03jCg_wAxJ3nSe2Yh6tH3TlhzLb_qnqUaLMV--XFmX-dNh2rUphHJMnz0uab00eUxySDTtbBwa5QwcqHdEjQaxGhXTjdgDFS5olegKoDfQd462ZfF8QEh0-zg--HB86YaVnzH0o1uHoFXHPmjGmSE%3D&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ncsc.gov.uk%2Finformati on%2Finfographics-ncsc

The second link is to a document devised by the City of London Police and outlines the 12 Online Frauds of Christmas outlining ways to stay safe online over the festive period:

https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/QksB4boAzl-Ll-udCjhVw5APIPXjKMDQMrVNZxuPuQ8=?d=y5ZSZggdcq5oGYQXnlkQu7CnBo5KnDSt2O_ms_r bts84yu8r_q5CQX8vk6ZTa833Z1tUrieJeVBU_YfQEsRKqTaR-ZUuQq6U0Nng0Qf-eKyaVkv2_X8XF_C1n9hqfheTcMLvxAdL5GoIMA46LpPWxzS9Oe99_s-Tj_30IjB1pNd_EGzZpeNr9beQPVTgYaccqLFx87Tt-Bp_fDNI9Pn4D1kt5zDVfD2CSGQRXULwytr61tHwu43ppVj3CYumwJhJqrylk2SZbwAXVKS03jCg_wAxJ3nSe2Yh6tH3TlhzLb_qnqUaLMV--XFmX-dNh2rUphHJMnz0uab00eUxySDTtbBwa5QwcqHdEjQaxGhXTjdgDFS5olegKoDfQd462ZfF8QEh0-zg--HB86YaVnzH0o1uHoFXHPmjGmSE%3D&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.actionfraud.police.uk%2F sites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F12%20Frauds%20of%20Christmas%20Leaflet_0.pdf

LEIGH IS UP FOR THE CHALLENGE!

The town of Leigh has been chosen to be part of a high profile urban regeneration challenge spearheaded by the Mayor of Greater Manchester.

Wigan Council has chosen Leigh to be in Andy Burnham's new Town Centre Challenge initiative to regenerate town centres across Greater Manchester. The challenge invites all ten councils across Greater Manchester to nominate a town to be part of the initiative.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester will then work with each council and bring together housing providers, public and private landowners, developers, community groups and other key stakeholders in a concerted effort to support local councils to unlock the potential in town centres. A key focus will be on delivering new housing in town centres with powers under compulsory purchase orders available and investment from a new housing deal supporting the challenge.

Wigan Council's cabinet agreed that Leigh should be the town put forward by Wigan Borough. Cabinet members agreed that Leigh had many existing strengths but also significant regeneration and growth opportunities.

WIGAN BOROUGH'S NEW DRUG AND ALCOHOL RECOVERY SERVICE

A national charity will take the reins on Wigan Borough's drug and alcohol recovery programme next year in a bid to make services even more visible and available in local areas.

Addaction, a service supporting people of all ages to make positive behavioural changes has been awarded a five-year contract by Wigan Council to deliver all drug and alcohol services across the borough. It is the first time that adult and young people's services will be integrated, which will provide a smoother recovery journey, especially those transitioning into adulthood.

The current main bases in Wigan (Coops) and Leigh (Kennedy House) will remain and there will be dedicated officers in each of the seven service delivery footprint areas who will work within the community to truly understand residents' needs.

Wigan Council is leading the way with its drug and alcohol recovery service by working with primary care providers and communities to combat addiction to all drugs, including over the counter medication.

For more information about Addaction, visit: www.addaction.org.uk

CALLING ALL VETERANS

Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh is the independent consumer champion for local users of health and social care services. We are here to make your services better by listening to your experiences and influencing improvements in the way health and social care is provided locally.

We are working with local veterans to find out their views and experiences of health and social care services and how these services can be improved for veterans in Wigan.

This is your chance to have your say and help us make sure that every member of the ex-services community across this Borough receives the treatment they deserve.

Please help us by completing this survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WFFK9HT>
It only takes a few minutes and everything you tell us will be treated with the strictest confidence.

If you'd like to find out more visit www.healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk phone 01942 834666 or contact karenw@healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OUR HOMELESS

A new and improved approach to homelessness is helping to keep thousands of residents off the streets of Wigan. The approach, which sees Wigan Council working more closely with the voluntary and private sector, is helping to deliver more effective support and

rehabilitation for the borough's homeless and rough sleepers by identifying and supporting those at risk as early as possible to prevent them reaching crisis point.

In addition to the current day time programmes offered by a number of groups, the new approach will implement a borough wide outreach provision, which will operate out of hours and at weekends. Two rehabilitation and support hubs will also be created, bringing together all relevant services to help rough sleepers.

The Leigh hub, based at Leigh Court House, will be operational at the end of January 2018 and the Wigan hub will be operational in summer 2018.

There will be emergency access beds available for the homeless and borough-wide services will be available seven days a week.

If you see a homeless person on the streets, please email roughsleep@wigan.gov.uk with as much information as possible (including their location) and our officers will investigate. You will also receive an update on the situation. Those who find themselves on the streets can also ring our out of hour's service on: 01942 828777

HAG FOLD PARK AND RIDE

I just set up a petition "To upgrade Hag Fold Station, Atherton to a Park and Ride." and wanted to ask if you could add your name too. This campaign means a lot to me and the more support we can get behind it, the better chance we have of succeeding. You can read more and sign the petition here: <http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/to-upgrade-hag-fold-station-atherton-to-a-park-and-ride>

Thank you! Norman Bradbury

P.S. Can you also take a moment to share the petition with others? It's really easy – all you need to do is forward this email or share this link on Facebook or Twitter: <http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/to-upgrade-hag-fold-station-atherton-to-a-park-and-ride>

MAKING ASHTON BETTER

The Salvation Army in Ashton-in-Makerfield are looking for referrals of individuals and families who would benefit from some extra support at Christmas. We will be able to provide Christmas food hampers and toys.

I am looking to support individuals who are isolated as well as families who are finding it difficult to make ends meet and who live in the Ashton area, including Platt Bridge and Hindley. I will need to have referrals returned by 8th December to allow enough time to put hampers and gifts together. Please contact Claire.Marriott-lodge@salvationarmy.org.uk

GREENSLATE COMMUNITY FARM MEMORY GARDEN PROJECT

Our aim is to create a garden area for the local community to use for quiet relaxation, reflection but also a space to meet others: a haven.

Our design is to create a seating area surrounded by raised beds full of seasonal colourful flowers, herbs and shrubs. With a fruit tree in the centre as a focus with others planted outside. The whole outer area is to be made into a bee friendly wildflower mini meadow. A hedge to be planted on the fence line with a variety of hedging kindly donated to the farm by the Woodland Trust.

It will be constructed by farm volunteers and care farm students. We aim to use reclaimed timber to make the raised beds and source all other requirements locally. Greenslate Community Farm is committed to reducing carbon emissions, we do our best to work to organic and permaculture principles. We are committed to supporting local ethical businesses wherever possible.

We need your support and money to make this idea a reality.

Please support our effort by making a small donation on Crowdfunder at <http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/www-greenslatefarm-org-uk>

MANAGE YOUR MONEY, DON'T STRUGGLE WITH DEBT

'Don't struggle with debt' is the message of a new campaign launching in Wigan Borough. Wigan Council has teamed up with Unify and the Citizen's Advice Bureau to help residents manage their money at one of the most expensive times of the year.

In the last twelve months, (October 2016 – November 2017) 1,718 people visited Wigan Council's crisis desk due to having no food, no money or no gas or electric so the local campaign will encourage residents to get support if they are worried about falling into debt or are already struggling.

There is lots of local support and advice out there for people but sometimes it can be difficult find help before it is too late. Credit Unions can provide loans for individuals without a good credit history and interest rates start at just 12.7 per cent, compared to payday lenders which charge APR of up to 1,509 per cent. The council is warning residents against using a payday lenders or loan sharks and is instead urging people to apply for a cheaper loan through a Credit Union or seek advice for how to manage their finances.

Lesley O'Halloran, assistant director for customer services at Wigan Council said: "If you find that you are struggling with debt and are unable to manage repayments, it is important to think about which debts you need to deal with first. There can be serious consequences to not paying your bills and we don't want people falling into debt. "At this time of year it can be easy to spend money on things that aren't needed and there is support out there for residents who need help managing their money. There are cheaper and safer alternatives to payday lenders and loan sharks. Although they may seem like the easy option, people don't realise how much interest they charge and it can be so damaging."

Angela Fishwick, chief executive of Unify Credit Union, said: "Residents should take extra care when borrowing money to pay for the cost of Christmas. Always ask how much the repayments are and what is the total cost of credit and only borrow from licensed lenders. Don't be tempted to borrow from doorstep lenders charging on average 400 per cent APR

or from payday lenders charging in excess of 1000 per cent APR. If you are struggling to repay your high cost loan, talk to Unify, we are here to help.”

For help and advice on how to manage your money, visit: www.wigan.gov.uk/moneyadvice
Alternatively, you can email welfarerightsadvice@wigan.gov.uk for information about the council’s welfare outreach sessions.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPION AND SUPPORT MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITY WITH ALCOHOL ADVICE?

Addiction and Wigan & Leigh Recovery Partnership, in partnership with Wigan Council, are looking to recruit and train members of the community to become Community Health Champions. Training will be given, regular meetings held to receive further training and support.

If you are interested, please contact The Recovery Partnership on 01942 404299 to find out more.

You can also text/call 07972639250 or email john.settle@addaction.org.uk

PARKING IS FREE AFTER 3PM FOR WIGAN AND LEIGH CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS

Christmas shoppers are to benefit from free car parking sessions in council car parks in Wigan and Leigh town centres.

Wigan Council has once again introduced the free periods to support local retailers and businesses as well as shoppers in the run up to Christmas.

The offer includes:

- free parking after 3pm until Monday 8th January in council car parks in Wigan and Leigh town centres. This includes The Galleries and Water Street multi-storey car parks.
- free Sunday parking on all the council operated car parks in Wigan and Leigh town centres through to Sunday, 7th January.
- free late night parking on Thursdays until 9pm on The Galleries and Water Street multi-storey car parks until Thursday 21st December and free parking for the whole of Boxing Day Tuesday 26th December.

Having free car parking sessions gives shoppers the perfect opportunity to visit the town's top high street names, independent shops as well as its popular local markets. Wigan and Leigh markets offer a great variety of gifts and clothing for Christmas as well as high quality, locally sourced fresh food along with that friendly personal service.

Car parks taking part in the free sessions include:

Wigan: Water Street MSCP, Galleries MSCP, Sovereign Road, Peppermill Lane, Wilton Street, Chapel Lane, Mona Street, Pennyhurst, Haig Street, Trencherfield Mill.

Leigh: Spinning Gate, The Town Hall Leigh, Doctors Nook, Lord Street, The Railway Arches, Church Street.

Please note the Civic Centre Car Park and On Street Pay & Display bays are not included in the free after 3pm offer. On Street Pay & Display parking is free on Sundays.

Vehicles entering before 3pm will still have to pay or risk being issued a penalty charge notice.

DATA PROTECTION: GDPR HOTLINE

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has launched a dedicated advice line to help small organisations prepare for a new data protection law.

The phone service is aimed at people running small businesses or charities and recognises the particular problems they face getting ready for the new law, called the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The GDPR replaces the current Data Protection Act and comes into force on 25th May 2018.

Regulated by the ICO, the GDPR strengthens the rules around personal data and requires organisations to be more accountable and transparent. It also gives people greater control over their own personal data.

There are already resources on the ICO website (<https://ico.org.uk/>) to help organisations employing fewer than 250 people prepare for the GDPR. But the new phone line will offer additional, personal advice to small organisations that still have questions.

People from small organisations should dial the ICO helpline on 0303 123 1113 and select option 4 to be diverted to staff who can offer support.

As well as advice on preparing for the GDPR, callers can also ask questions about current data protection rules and other legislation regulated by the ICO including electronic marketing and Freedom of Information.

Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham said: "All organisations have to get ready for the new data protection rules, but we recognise that the 5.4 million small organisations in the UK face particular challenges. "Small organisations want to be ready when the new law comes into force in May 2018, but they often struggle to know where to start. They may have less time and money to invest in getting it right and are less likely to have compliance teams, data protection officers or legal experts to advise them what to do. "Our new phone service and all the other resources already on our website plus even more advice and guidance yet to come will help steer small businesses through the new law."

In addition to the new phone service, the ICO has also announced plans to simplify its popular "12 steps to take now" graphic in response to calls from small and micro businesses that they need access to targeted information about how to prepare for the GDPR.

And the ICO is revising its simple-to-use SME toolkit – a resource used by around 9,000 businesses a month since January 2016 – into a GDPR resource that will allow businesses themselves to identify gaps in their own preparation for the new law.

Organisations that have yet to begin preparing for the law change can access a range of resources on the ICO's dedicated data protection reform web pages.

The "12 steps to take now" graphic has been viewed 73,000 times since it was updated in May and is the most downloaded document on the ICO website:

<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1624219/preparing-for-the-gdpr-12-steps.pdf>

ICO staff have spoken at nearly 100 stakeholder events where "getting ready for the GDPR" has been a key theme and around 10,000 people have viewed sector-specific webinars highlighting GDPR issues. By the end of the year, the ICO will publish a Guide to the GDPR. It expands the content of the current overview to make it a comprehensive guide along the same lines as the current Guide to Data Protection. For further information, visit: <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/news-and-events/news-and-blogs/2017/10/new-data-protection-advice-service-aimed-at-small-organisations-preparing-for-the-general-data-protection-regulation/>

WIGAN ROTARY CLUB COMMUNITY DAY 2018

Many will know about the Rotary Club of Wigan sponsored Community Day. To be held in Standishgate on Saturday 7th July 2018 this will be the 5th year of this event and is an opportunity for charities and local good causes to promote their cause, recruit volunteers and members, raise funds, sell merchandise to the many thousands of people who will be in Wigan on that date.

All this at no cost to the organisation.

If organisations would like information on the event can they send an email with the words 'CD info reqd' to mervyn.reeves@blueyonder.co.uk

HANDY PERSONS SERVICE FROM AGE UK WIGAN BOROUGH

Need some support doing odd jobs around the house? Our Handy Persons Service may be the place to turn to. With our experienced and helpful staff along with a competitively priced service, no job is too small:-

- Installing grab rails and hand rails
- Making bespoke steps for easier access in and out of your property
- Hanging pictures, blinds, curtain rails etc
- Building flat pack furniture or moving furniture round the house
- Installation of Keysafes
- And much more

Ring our friendly team for further information or call at the office to discuss further

Visit: 68, Market Street, Wigan Call 01942 241972

LEAN ON ME

Is a new independent advocacy service from Wigan Churches Association for Family Welfare. It offers short term support to over 18's.

For more information ring 01942 867888/visit the office at St Catherine's House in Scholes.

BOOK A PLACE ON ANY OF OUR NEW WEEKEND WALKS

We have a variety of walks across the borough, perfect for exploring the amazing green spaces Wigan and Leigh has to offer. Get the exercise and fresh air your body needs. We have a variety of walks across the borough, perfect for exploring the amazing green spaces Wigan and Leigh has to offer. Get the exercise and fresh air your body needs....

Keep an eye on our Facebook page @getactiveoutdoors for all the walks being added in the events section, as we also have a Waggy Tails Walk for you and your four-legged friend on the 3rd December at Pennington Flash.

You can book at www.inspiringhealthylifestyles.org or turn up on the day

Lilford Park (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am

Amberswood Nature Reserve (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am

Pennington Flash (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am

Haigh Woodland Park (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am

HAVE YOU BEEN DISCHARGED FROM A MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE?

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh is looking at people's experiences of being discharged from a mental health in-patient unit, A & E/RAID service or from the Home Based Treatment Team, to make sure people get the right support following a mental health crisis.

Whether you have been in hospital under section or voluntarily, and whether you had a positive or negative experience we want to hear from you.

If you have had several experiences, please tell us about your most recent experience by following the link to our survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WD9QJLR>

This survey should take no more than five minutes to complete. It's ok if you don't remember all the details of your experience – please just tell us what you can.

Thank you for your support and co-operation. If you would like more information about Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh visit www.healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk or email info@healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk

HEALTHIER WIGAN PARTNERSHIP - CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE SERVICES NEED YOUR HELP

The Healthier Wigan Partnership are currently working with Advancing Quality Alliance (AQuA) to improve the services they provide to people diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) across Wigan

The aim of this work is to improve the use and awareness of available services to treat people experiencing problems with their COPD condition.

As part of the first part of this work we are spending time making sure that we understand the current steps that patients with COPD take and their experience of that care.

In order to achieve this we need your help. We need to understand what it is currently like

to be a patient or carer using the current COPD services across Wigan.

COPD services include GP's, Community Services, Accident and Emergency Departments, Hospital Out Patients and Clinics and Hospital COPD services.

If you have used any of these services or been a carer of someone using these services, we would like to give you the opportunity to speak with Wendy Bell and Carl O'Loughlin who are AQUA patient and carer representatives. Both of these people have lots of experience of being patients of the NHS and have been trained to support other patients and carers.

If you would be willing to share your experience of using Wigan COPD services and want to have a conversation with Wendy or Carl then please get in touch with Kirsty Ratchford on 01942 828111 or K.Ratchford@wigan.gov.uk to share your contact details.

TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS ON OUR WEBSITE, COMMUNICATION & STRATEGIC PLAN

Please tell us what you think of our website, the way we communicate with you and your thoughts on our Strategic Plan.

Please follow the link below to answer a few questions

<http://www.healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk/website-communication-strategic-plan/>

Many thanks for your time, we do appreciate this

#TOGETHERWECAN REMOVE THE STIGMA

A new campaign tackling the stigma surrounding mental health has been backed by Wigan Athletic chairman, David Sharpe.

Wigan Council in partnership with local health providers developed the campaign, #TogetherWeCan, which addresses a range of life events and triggers that can be difficult times for people. The campaign focuses on the importance of seeking support and was officially launched on International Men's Day (19th November). #TogetherWeCan aims to raise awareness about mental health, remove the stigma attached to talking about issues and highlight how although they may feel like it, people are not alone.

The theme of International Men's Day this year is highlighting positive male role models, which is something David believes is important when trying to change attitudes towards mental health.

He said: "We need to raise the profile of mental health and a great way to do that is to encourage people in privileged positions to speak out and support initiatives like this. "One in four people live with a mental health condition. If you think about that statistic and the club's fans, the importance of mental health is really put into perspective. "We have an average attendance of 8,000 people so that's approximately 2,000 people in the stand who are possibly living with poor mental health."

The campaign aims to help people before they reach crisis point by focusing on talking as a starting point but will also target those with more complex mental health needs and those who know of someone in their life that may need help

David added: “People automatically think that seeking help is sitting in a room with a doctor. Yes, this is one way but you could begin with a relaxed conversation with someone close to you like a friend or a family member. “Life events and circumstances affect everybody differently. It doesn’t matter what the trigger is, it could be a big change or a number of smaller things that build up and begin to affect you. It’s important that you recognise this change or dip in your mental health and find the support in a form that is right for you. “Everybody is fighting a battle we don’t know about, we need to be more mindful and accepting of those around us. The main message for me is to realise that just because someone looks strong, doesn’t mean they feel it. “The #TogetherWeCan campaign addresses this and I look forward to seeing it develop.”

Professor Kate Ardern, director for public health at Wigan Council said: “We want to encourage and support people to maintain positive mental wellbeing and help remove the stigma surrounding mental health within communities. “As The Deal for Health and Wellness outlines, we believe that everybody should be able to live long and healthy lives. “People are not alone on their recovery journey as there is a multitude of support available both on a national and a local scale. By working together, we can really make a difference.”

Read David’s full interview on the council’s website or find out more about the #TogetherWeCan campaign and access support services at www.wigan.gov.uk/togetherwecan.

TOGETHER WE CAN

You may have already seen this on our social media channels but Wigan Council recently launched a campaign to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and wellbeing.

The campaign, #TogetherWeCan, takes into consideration a range of ages and triggers or life events that can be difficult times for people. We want to help people before they reach crisis point but the campaign is also designed to resonate with those who may have more complex mental health needs by reinforcing the message that together, we can help.

The launch of the campaign focused on bereavement and loneliness in older people and the collateral we created (video, poster, flyer and email signature) can be found at www.wigan.gov.uk/togetherwecan underneath the ‘#TogetherWeCan Campaign’ tab. This web address also signposts to support available and we hope to develop the page to include real-life stories.

We will be creating more collateral like this based on other triggers and ages throughout the year and will push extra messaging on our social media channels. We would like to encourage everyone to engage with our campaign by tagging @WiganCouncil on Facebook and Twitter and using #TogetherWeCan. If you have a positive story to tell or think your group / services could benefit people with mental health needs on either a minor or more complex scale, we would love to hear from you.

We also run free one hour long InMind sessions, which help people to learn more about looking after their mental wellbeing and spotting the signs of negative mental health. The

session covers a number of key messages including, noticing changes in yourself, family members or friends, reducing the stigma and having the confidence to have different conversations around mental health.

Please email public.health@wigan.gov.uk to be involved and a member of the team will be in touch.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHARGING CHARITIES

In recent years the Charity Commission has seen its budget slashed from £40m to around £21m – and further cuts could well be on the horizon. As a result, there is a debate about charging charities to plug the gap – which DSC opposes.

A well-resourced Charity Commission is vital for the work of charities, but the Directory of Social Change believes that diverting charitable resources to fund the regulator is wrong, on many levels.

The Directory of Social Change came up with nine arguments (at least!) against the ‘charity tax’ which you can find here: www.dsc.org.uk/content/dsc-study-finds-huge-opposition-to-commissions-proposal-to-introduce-fees/

Do you think the idea is as unacceptable? Join the campaign. For further information and to get involved, visit: www.dsc.org.uk/campaign-against-charging-charities/

DAA UPDATES

Wigan DAA - Twitter Account

Did you know we have a twitter account? If you are on twitter please follow @WiganDAA and use the account to advertise your organisations and activities/services.

Trading Standards - Call Blockers

Trading Standards are promoting the launch of free call blockers available for people living with dementia. The blockers are free and very easy to install, and are available direct from the scams team.

Please see more information by visiting <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/callblocker>

Dementia-friendly cinema

Alzheimer’s Society has worked with the UK Cinema Association and the British Film Institute to create a Dementia Friendly Screenings guide for cinemas. It aims to spread awareness of dementia-friendly screenings and encourages cinemas of all sizes to get involved. It also gives best practice advice on the practicalities of dementia-friendly screenings alongside some helpful case studies.

The guide is being launched today at Hackney Picture house and will be available to download shortly afterwards at: alzheimers.org.uk/cinema

Dementia-friendly dentistry

The Faculty of General Dental Practitioners, British Dental Association, Public Health England and Alzheimer’s Society have created standards for dementia-friendly dentistry. This guide is the first comprehensive resource to guide dentists to support both people with

dementia and their carers in all aspects of their treatment. It provides guidance on care management and care provision as well as support materials. To find out more, please visit: www.fgdp.org.uk/guidance-standards

“Memories with Grandma”

We’re excited to share our new animation, ‘Memories with Grandma’. It’s aimed at young people aged 7-11, so we’re encouraging schools and youth groups to use the animation to help us create a dementia-friendly generation. To learn more about the animation, please visit: www.alzheimers.org.uk/memorieswithgrandma

KEEPING US WELL: HOW NON-HEALTH CHARITIES ADDRESS THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

We welcome the publication of this New Philanthropy Capital report which aims to support non-health charities to better understand and use the evidence about the social factors that impact on people’s health and wellbeing.

Stark and widespread health inequalities in the UK represent a striking social injustice. A difference of nearly two decades in healthy life expectancy between those living in the least and most deprived areas is largely influenced by social, economic, and environmental factors known as ‘social determinants of health’. The impact that these social factors have on our health mean that even those charities that are not explicitly pursuing a health-focused mission—‘non-health charities’, as NPC calls them—are helping to support people’s health.

The report contains evidence of the effects on health of:

- Family
- Friends and communities
- Education and skills
- Good work
- Money and resources
- Housing
- Our surroundings

Read a full copy of the report at <http://www.thinknpc.org/publications/keeping-us-well>

PLANT A SEED FOR GENDER EQUALITY

In 2018 it will be 100 years since the first women secured the right to vote in the UK. Yet 100 years on, we are still fighting for gender equality. We see the social injustice still faced by women every single day at The Pankhurst Centre, so we're calling YOU to action to help us to do something special for our women and children in 2018: to build a Suffragette Garden to commemorate the work of Emmeline Pankhurst and the incredible Suffragette Women 100 years on, and foster the well-being of women still experiencing social injustice today.

Full details at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/plant-a-seed-for-gender-equality>

FREE PERKS FOR LIBRARY MEMBERS

Residents of Wigan Borough now have free access to a range of magazines thanks to a new perk rewarding library members.

Twelve local authority areas, including Wigan have rolled out the offer in partnership with RB Digital, giving all library members in the area digital access to almost 100 magazines such as BBC Good Food, British Vogue and Horrible Histories. To take advantage of the offer, residents must be signed up to the borough's library services, which is also free and simple to do either online or at a local library.

Lesley O'Halloran, assistant director for customer services at Wigan Council said: "This new offer really is a win/win for residents of all ages. Being able to access content in this way will help our older people get online to easily find their favourite subscriptions from the comfort of their home and will also save younger people money they would normally spend on buying these publications in the shops.

Members can access full digital copies of their favourite magazines from computers, smartphones or tablets in a place convenient to them as long as they have an internet connection. When using the RB Digital website, the magazines are stored to a members 'collection' for online streaming and can be accessed each time the person logs in, for as long as they like. However, if a member downloads a magazine using the app, the publication will then be stored on the device.

To get started, head to www.wigan.gov.uk/emagazines for information on how to create an account, which will ask for your library card number. If you are not yet a library member, sign up for free now at www.wigan.gov.uk/libraries
The RB Digital app is available on Google Play or iTunes.

THE CHARITY GOVERNANCE AWARDS 2018

The Charity Governance Awards is an exciting not-for-profit initiative created to celebrate outstanding governance in charities both small and large.

The awards recognise and reward charities achieving great governance. They shine a spotlight on the trustees, staff and volunteers who make change possible day after day by showcasing the stories that demonstrate how effective governance can transform lives.

There are seven categories covering every kind of charitable organisation. The winning charity in each category will receive £5,000.

Award categories

- Board Diversity and Inclusivity
- Embracing Digital
- Embracing Opportunity and Harnessing Risk
- Improving Impact – charities with 3 paid staff or fewer (including charities with no paid staff)
- Improving Impact – charities with 4–25 paid staff
- Improving impact – charities with 26 paid staff or more

- Managing Turnaround

Entry is free and you can only submit one entry across all seven categories per charity.

For further information and to enter, visit: www.charitygovernanceawards.co.uk

Deadline: **Friday 12 January 2018**

TRAPPED CAMPAIGN – THE CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Police, local authorities, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, young people and an MP have launched a campaign to stop criminal gangs from grooming children and vulnerable adults to commit crime.

The campaign, known as ‘Trapped’, aims to raise awareness of criminals who are grooming and exploiting children and young adults to commit crime on their behalf.

Offenders take victims from urban areas to the countryside or coastal areas to sell drugs. Sometimes victims are trafficked closer to home, and are moved around Greater Manchester.

As well as drug dealing, victims are sometimes asked to carry out other forms of criminal activity such as arson, violent offences, storing firearms, holding money, criminal damage or assault.

Offenders use coercive behaviour to threaten and exploit victims and their families.

Some signs that a young or vulnerable person could be ‘Trapped’ and need help are:

- Young people going missing and travelling to seaside or market towns
- School absence or missing from school
- Money, clothes or accessories which they are unable to account for
- Receiving an excessive amount of texts and phone calls
- Relationships with controlling / older individuals or groups
- Carrying weapons
- Significant decline in school results / performance
- Self-harm or significant changes in emotional wellbeing

Anyone with concerns either about themselves or somebody else should contact Greater Manchester Police on 101 in a non-emergency situation or report anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Always dial 999 when there is an immediate threat to life or a crime in progress. www.manchestersafeguardingboards.co.uk/trapped-campaign/

BECOME AN ANTIBIOTIC GUARDIAN AND CHOOSE YOUR PLEDGE

Public Health England (PHE) leads the co-ordination of Antibiotic Awareness activities in England in collaboration with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Department of Health, devolved administrations, and other professional organisations.

PHE established the Antibiotic Guardian campaign to help protect antibiotics and improve knowledge about antibiotic resistance.

You are invited to become an Antibiotic Guardian

As an Antibiotic Guardian, encourage others to join you in protecting antibiotics against the growing threat of antibiotic resistance at antibioticguardian.com

Please share on social media using #AntibioticGuardian

Resources and promotional materials for Antibiotic Guardian and EAAD are available via <http://bit.ly/eaad-resources>

RELOCATION OF INPATIENT NEURO-REHABILITATION SERVICES

Thanks to local patients and residents who engaged with us over the past couple of months around the relocation of the Taylor Unit from Leigh Infirmary. A report summarising the feedback from patients and residents went to Wigan Borough CCGs Governing Body on 28th November 2017.

Whilst Governing Body made the decision to relocate the inpatient Neuro-Rehabilitation services to Trafford General Hospital they have asked for further consideration to be made on what can be put in place to help reduce the impact on patients, carers and families. There will be further engagement with staff, patients, carers and families whilst planning for the move.

For full report go to

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/7eb44dc0e2e0d65841a533271/files/1c367e64-50a7-47a8-89e3-30568d863892/Taylor_Unit_Engagement_Report_FINAL_went_to_GB.pdf

INTRODUCING THE NORTH WEST SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

The North West Sector Partnership (NWSP) is a partnership of NHS organisations working across Bolton, Salford and Wigan. Together they are working to transform a number of specialist hospital services to make sure that the same high quality care is provided at all hospitals and that services are sustainable for future generations.

To find out more about the work of NWSP please follow the link below to view the first edition of their online newsletter.

<http://mailchi.mp/39110245b2b0/north-west-sector-partnership-bulletin-01-nov17>

COUNCIL TAX EXEMPTION DECLARED FOR ALL CARE LEAVERS IN WIGAN BOROUGH

Young adults who have left care are to be exempt from paying council tax in Wigan Borough. Wigan Council's cabinet this week approved plans to exempt anyone aged between 18 and 21 who has previously been cared for by Wigan Council from paying council tax.

It is hoped the move will help support care leavers to establish independence and reduce the risk of these young people from getting into debt and rent arrears at this crucial time in their life. The change has been introduced by the council immediately and will be back-dated to April. Care leavers in full time education up to the age of 25 are already exempt.

James Winterbottom, Wigan Council's director for children's services, said: "Care leavers are among the most vulnerable groups in our community but also have many individual skills and talents that benefit our communities in many ways and we want to make sure that we support them to make best use of these.

"As corporate parents and through our commitment in The Deal the council wants to ensure that young people's experiences of leaving care and moving into independent living are positive and improve their life chances – just as any parent does. "We are proud to have

introduced this change and know through speaking with our young care leavers and through the research available that this will make a big difference to their lives.”

Wigan Council supports young people through the Deal for Children and Young People and its children and young people’s service was rated as ‘Good’ by Ofsted earlier this year. Most children who come into care have experienced complex trauma and faced significant challenges early in life.

National research shows that care leavers often experience debt and arrears of rent, council tax, household bills and transport costs and feel insufficiently prepared for independent living when they left care. Care leavers are often in a position where the transition from care to independent living is swift and at a younger age than their peers.

There are 142 care leavers aged between 18 and 21 living in Wigan Borough and the exemption will currently directly affect 31 care leavers in the borough who are paying council tax.

GREATER MANCHESTER FESTIVAL OF AGEING

Did you know that in July 2018 there will be a ‘Festival of Ageing’ across Greater Manchester? This will include lots of activities, fun and a huge celebration of diverse and positive experiences of ageing.

Like all good festivals, there will be lots of music and food and things to do. Your ideas of fun things that can be organised during the festival are sought

To give your ideas, visit: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/T9XXYWG
or email: festival.ageing@gmail.com or Twitter/Facebook @festivalofageing

JRF UK POVERTY 2017 REPORT SHOWS SHARP INCREASE IN CHILD AND PENSIONER POVERTY

UK Poverty 2017, a new report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, has found that almost 400,000 more children and 300,000 more pensioners are now living in poverty than in 2012/13. Since that year, there have been continued increases in poverty, across both age groups. Very little progress has been made in reducing poverty among working-age adults.

The report examines how UK poverty has changed over the last 20 years, providing the most comprehensive and up to date picture of the challenges and prospects facing low income families in modern Britain. It highlights that overall, 14 million people live in poverty in the UK – over one in five of the population. This is made up of eight million working-age adults, four million children and 1.9 million pensioners. 8 million live in families where at least one person is in work.

Over the last 20 years, the UK has dramatically reduced poverty among people who had traditionally been most at risk – pensioners and certain types of families with children. But that progress is beginning to unravel; poverty rates for both groups have started to rise again.

The analysis highlights that the three factors which have led to a fall in poverty and are now under question; state support for many of those on low incomes is falling in real terms, rents are increasing, and rising employment is no longer reducing poverty. As a result, JRF is calling for a national mission to transform the prospects of millions of people living in poverty in the UK.

A summary of the findings and a full copy of the report can be found on the JRF website - <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2017>

ESF - Working Well Provider Appointed

On Wednesday 23rd November 2017 Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) formally announced the appointment of InWork GM Alliance as the provider of the Working Well (Work and Health Programme) contract in Greater Manchester.

InWork GM Alliance is a partnership between Ingeus and The Growth Company and includes Pathways CIC and Pluss as specialist health, wellbeing and disability support organisations.

Working Well will be formally launched at the end of January 2018 when InWork GM will start taking referrals onto the programme from Jobcentre Plus.

ABOUT WORKING WELL

Working Well aims to provide a holistic approach to supporting people into work with a particular focus on supporting individuals who face compounding and complex barriers such as: mental health needs, long term health conditions, musculoskeletal conditions, and issues with addiction.

The programme will offer people fifteen months of on-programme support and up to six months in-work support to aid their transition into employment and support longer term sustainable work.

Working Well in Greater Manchester

Greater Manchester was in a unique position in commissioning the provider for Working Well having been devolved powers from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Through these devolved powers, the GMCA extended the scope and the reach of the Working Well (Work and Health Programme), bringing a funding package of £52 million for the programme to support over 22,000 individuals in Greater Manchester between 2018 and 2024. The programme is part-financed by the European Social Fund.

To read the full announcement go to

https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/article/222/gmca_appoints_working_well_work_and_health_programme_provider

PLAY YOUR PART IN GREATER MANCHESTER'S DIGITAL AMBITIONS

The second GM Digital and Tech Summit was held on the 8 December 2018. The Summit forms part of the crowdsourcing approach taken by the GMCA to develop the GM Digital Strategy and measures.

This crowdsourcing took form through five working groups, made of volunteers. All of these have all produced draft action plans.

To support the stated ambition for Greater Manchester to be a recognised as a top global digital city region and top five in Europe by 2020 these draft action plans, proposed measures and Digital Strategy are published for your review and comment.

After the Summit the draft documents will be taken through the city region's governance including the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Board.

To view and comment upon the draft documents and to read the draft GM Digital Strategy

Full details go to

https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/article/234/play_your_part_in_our_digital_ambitions

'100 VOICES' PROJECT AT THE CHRISTIE HOSPITAL

Referrals are now being accepted into the '100 Voices' Project at The Christie, which has been developed with support from the Christie charity and The Whitworth Art Gallery.

Any patients or carers who meet the following broad criteria can apply to participate in this project:

- Affected by or caring for someone with cancer
- Treated at least once at The Christie
- At least 12 months from diagnosis

Initial sessions will be run as follows:

11th / 12th Jan at 12.30pm; 1st Feb at 12.30pm; finishing no later than 3.30pm and will be held at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Meeting Room 1.

20 patients will be accepted into each workshop, with further sessions being arranged for March and April. A member of the Christie Patient Reference Group and Ben Hayworth, MacMillan Survivorship Network Manager will be supervising each session. Patients can also self-refer and should be instructed to email Ben Hayworth securely on 100voices@christie.nhs.uk in order to make themselves known.

Patients can come from any disease group and the project is looking for a diverse and inclusive cohort. Support will be provided for patients for whom English is not spoken and/or other access issues as part of this work, and welcome patients from diverse backgrounds. Travel expenses can also be claimed by people participating in this project.

To find out more, contact Ben Heyworth at 100voices@christie.nhs.uk or on 07917 628 672