

RSN Seminar on Health and Well-Being

Worcester 3 March 2015

Key Themes:

Young people are frequently overlooked in the discussion on health and well-being

Social prescribing is an increasingly important area driving relationships in terms of health and well-being between the vol/com sector and local authorities

There are distinctive challenges which the rural environment brings to the health and well-being agenda and they are not very distinctively understood

There is scope for significantly more knowledge exchange in the context of the rural health and well-being agenda

Volunteers are not a panacea in the context of health and well being costs and challenges

Transport is a key theme in terms of costs and isolation in relation to rural health and well-being

Mutuality provides scope for organizing people at the local level to overcome some of the significant costs levied by private providers for the provision of basic care

Asset Based Community Development has a potent role to play in engaging communities in the health and well-being agenda where it can be used to work out the current level of “informal” activity and infrastructure in a community

Impact measurement and a consideration of how service delivery models can evolve are both important – there is not enough thinking and support around these issues in the rural health and well-being context

The three tier local government system complicates the process of service delivery and innovation in relation to health and well-being particularly in rural areas – also a reflection that it could be a strength where there are more “entry points” to organizational help and funding around innovation in service delivery in this area. In this context a recognition that the role of parish councils is important and neglected in the discussions so far.

Many districts are still just getting to grips with this whole agenda.

Housing is sometimes a neglected aspect of this whole agenda – it is interesting to reflect that an unintended consequence of the drive to help the elderly live in their homes for longer in rural areas is to clog up the housing ladder