

APM for the parish of Badgworth – 15th March 2022

The past 12 months have been another challenging year with all the Village and Community Agents continuing to work both digitally and face to face meetings with clients, when restrictions were lifted. We have continued our amazing links with local volunteers who have helped isolated residents ensure they have access to food and medication as and when required.

The food resilience task force, which was set up at the beginning of the pandemic, has continued to support our clients who are struggling financially and we are able to provide ambient food along with pet food. We can then work with these clients for a longer-term solution and signpost them to agencies who can support them going forward.

We were able to resume our face to face Talking Cafe's in August 2021 on an appointment basis only, however, these ceased for a few weeks when the COVID numbers had increased in September and October. Since then, these have been held weekly in Burnham, Highbridge and Cheddar and there is no need to book an appointment any more.

Sedgemoor has 14 agents working with the GP surgeries, Adult Social Care and specialist agents working with clients who have Learning Difficulties and Mental Health issues. Within North Sedgemoor, we have 5 agents, and an initiative that was set up at the start of lockdown, where we attend a daily multi-disciplinary team meeting, continues to be a success. These meetings have been invaluable as we can discuss specific clients with the team who include GP's, Adult Social Care, Rehab Team, Mental health Team and Palliative Care. This has enabled us to have a speedy resolution and a holistic approach to the clients' issues.

Our Home First Community Agents continue to work with Musgrove Park Hospital, Yeovil District Hospital and Burnham-on-sea Community Hospital. The role is to work with the staff at the hospital to ensure a patient's discharge from hospital to home is timely and accurate in line with their needs for when they return home. This ensures there is no bed blocking and the agents can work with external providers to make sure everything is in place for when they arrive home.

It is great to be back visiting clients in their homes or at a venue, and also seeing local groups re-opening back up. Clients are enquiring more about local activities to attend or befriending services.

Kim Wilcox