

'Faversham Healthy Futures'

addressing the town's future health and care needs

- a citizen-led project -

Briefing for Faversham Town Council Community Committee

Faversham has a demonstrably strong, well-respected identity. With the anticipated growth in the population, local health and care services will need to be re-thought, redeveloped and strengthened.

The idea for this project came from a meeting of the Patient Participation Group (PPG) at Newton Place GP Practice who had invited colleagues from Faversham Medical Practice to talk about the effect of the town's expected growth on health and care services. By the end of the meeting, they wanted to find a way of getting people together to understand what Faversham's future needs might be and then to support (even push!) the authorities to make plans to provide them. It was thought this might be supportive of the emergent Neighbourhood Plan.

To understand how the health and care system can best meet the future needs of the town requires sophisticated data analysis and equally important, the active involvement of local people. We have secured a small amount of funding from the University of Kent in partnership with Dr Melanie Rees-Roberts at the Centre for Health Services Studies to explore how we might start to involve and include Faversham citizens in the process. The somewhat remote Kent and Medway Integrated Care System has now been legally established, NHS England's population health management programmes are being embedded and the East Kent Health and Care Partnership have declared a commitment to involve local people in health care planning. There has never been a better time for an initiative like this!

Our funding will deliver a series of meetings/activities in the town. The first we thought should be with stakeholders, bringing together key contributors across local government, health, social care commissioning and academia with local people. We felt a project like this should be 'grounded' in the local civic administration – Faversham Town Council. We would like to talk to you about how best to do that and we look forward to the conversation!

Laurie McMahon and Gill Wagstaff

Co-Chairs

The Faversham Healthy Futures Project

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