

Caring Bridport Research sets out to quantify the current **value** of aspects of Bridport’s health and social care provision, and to weigh up the benefits to the town if parts of our health and care system were to become more localised. This research is part of a process to understand residents’ unmet needs and to identify community driven opportunities for meeting them.

What are our research objectives? The Caring Bridport Research project aims to assess the potential for new community tailored and owned responses which meet the health & social care needs of the most vulnerable in our community, while keeping money local and sustaining local livelihoods. We aim to:

1. Estimate the money being spent in the health & social care sector in Bridport and to identify potential income to benefit the community and their efforts to meet unmet needs.
2. Identify possible community-driven and locally-owned health and social care project ideas which could potentially be developed, and any recommendations for taking them forward.
3. Unite local strategic partners behind the delivery of these recommendations.
4. Produce a report that is a useful tool for mobilising interest and resources.

Key research questions

Understanding needs, provision and gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Bridport’s current health & social care needs? • Which needs are being met and how? Which needs are not being met and why?
Identifying opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the opportunities for filling gaps and/or transforming provision? • What barriers need to be reduced or enablers strengthened to support the development of opportunities?
Understanding money flows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much money is being spent on health & care services in Bridport? • What economic or market opportunities are there to provide solutions locally?

Where will we conduct the research? This study is taking place from February to May 2017, and will broadly cover Bridport town and the surrounding areas linked to Bridport catchment health & care services¹. We will build on any existing research and will rely predominately on secondary data.

What areas will the research focus on? Although there are many pressing unmet needs, the Caring Bridport Research team will focus on the ***provision of support for those experiencing mental health issues***, support which has dwindled significantly in recent times. This decision has been made following a series of conversations with local stakeholders. Many people in Bridport and outlying parishes are already working to tackle these challenges and the purpose of conducting this research is to support their efforts, and to explore opportunities to make a real difference where the community can be in the lead. Indeed, there is a timely opportunity to help improve links between groups in order to develop a stronger network which covers the life cycle and works to ensure access to the earliest possible intervention and most appropriate support.

We will also consider the emerging opportunities presented by changes to services, specifically the introduction of the ***Dorset Care Framework*** which seeks to bring health and social care provision together across the county and actively invites community innovation in this sphere. We will endeavour to deepen understanding of what this means for Bridport and how opportunities could be grasped locally.

¹ We are currently mapping the overlapping footprints of Bridport Medical Centre, the Bridport Local Area Partnership, Locality areas for our key services, the local schools catchment area, and footprints of existing data-sets.

What will we do with the findings? This piece of work will act as a snapshot of evidence of need around Health & Social Care in the Bridport area. It could be used to support funding bids or to build a business case for any new initiative.

How to get involved? Join our Champions Network! A first discussion to pool local knowledge and ideas on the topics took place during the “Building Bridport’s Entrepreneurial Economy” workshop on 7th December 2016 which raised the issues of social isolation and the potential to harness the skills and experience of volunteers for peer support. Since then we have started working in partnership with Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP)’s Health & Wellbeing group and have launched a small but growing network of Champions to help us carry forward the process. So far we have representation from those involved with interventions for early years/young mums, young people, acute mental health pathways, service providers for the unemployed and people experiencing anxiety, depression, and drug and alcohol issues.

Research activities we need YOUR support to complete:

- Tracking down facts and figures to build our case
- Mapping what's on offer and where the gaps are - make sure your local knowledge is represented
- Helping to spread the word - social media fans and copywriters please come forward!
- Helping to bring focus groups together - do you work with existing groups we could come and speak to?
- Helping to tell the story - help the voices of the vulnerable be heard!

Research Timeline

In February and March

- Mapping existing services within Bridport
- Consulting with key stakeholders and local health activists
- Conducting focus group discussions and community drop-ins

In April and May

- Compiling and analysing data
- Disseminating our progress through meetings, updates and press-releases
- Producing a draft and then publishing final report

Who is behind this project so far? The work is being led by Dorset Community Action² as a follow up from the Communities Living Sustainably (CLS) in Dorset project. This research forms part of a Community Economic Development process to develop a picture of the local economy in Bridport in three sectors - Food, Health & Social Care, and Building Materials & Resources - and is based on an approach called the “[Economic Blueprint](#)” pioneered in Totnes, Brixton and Herefordshire. The study has the support of BLAP and a growing number of stakeholders and residents. The researchers for Health & Social Care are Clare Smith and Caroline Gamble. The overall project is coordinated by Candida Blaker, Dorset Community Action.

Please do contact us if you want to be involved in any way

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²[Dorset Community Action](#) is one of 20 organisations nationally to have been awarded a small grant under the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) [Communities Economic Development Scheme](#).