

West Lancashire Partnership Board for Older People

Meeting held 20th January 2010

PRESENT:	Dr Alex McMinn	Chair
	Ann Fitzpatrick	LCC – Commissioning Manager
	Julia Shields	Age Concern
	Margaret Park	U3A - Upholland
	Mandy Naylor	Help Direct
	Rachel Walker	Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
	James Bevan	West Lancashire Pensioners Forum
	Pat Roberts	Aughton/Ormskirk U3A
	Glenn Harrison	NHS Central Lancs
	David Hudson	Age Concern Lancs
	Ray Brookfield	West Lancashire Pensioners Forum
	Tracey Jardine	LCC
	Richard Ford	Age Concern – WL Project Manager
	Cllr Malcolm Barron	LCC
	Greg Mitton	WL CVS Chief Officer
	Karen Thornhill	LCC Minute Taker

1. Apologies

Apologies were received as follows:-

Cllr May Blake	WLDC
Beverley Page-Banks	Alzheimer's Society
Kiran Banati	LCC
Peter Johnson	Welfare Rights

Alex McMinn opened the meeting and Richard Ford, West Lancashire Project Manager – Age Concern, was welcomed. Julia Shields advised that this would be her last meeting as Support Officer and she was thanked by Alex on behalf of the Board for all her work on the Action Plan.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as accurate.

Item 12 - Mandy Naylor advised that there had not been many applications made to the Small Sparks Fund so far, although a few had been received in recent weeks, and asked if Board members could publicise this further.

Item 13 – Tracey Jardine had asked if the Lancashire Local West Lancashire Committee could be put on the agenda for today's meeting but this had not

gone ahead as there is now a possibility that this will be dismantled. A decision regarding this is awaited and alternative options are being looked at. Tracey will update the Board when more information is available.

Greg Mitton confirmed that he is attending today's meeting in place of Hazel Allen, who is now working for CVS in Edinburgh.

3. Review of membership/representation

Membership of the Partnership Board had been discussed at the meeting on 17th September 2009 in accordance with the document dated 7th September 2009 - Appendix 1.

It was agreed that organisations would decide between themselves on a representative to attend the Board meetings and e-mail this information to Karen Thornhill – Karen.Thornhill@lancashire.gov.uk.

4. Protocol for member/meeting conduct

A document detailing the LSP code of conduct was handed out. As the Partnership Board is part of the LSP, Ann confirmed that this code of conduct applies to the Board.

5. Consultation proposed changes on the Action Plan – Julia Shields Age Concern

Work involving key members of the Board to improve the Action Plan is ongoing and this is progressing well. Approximately 75% of this is now complete and it should be ready for the next meeting. The Action Plan will then be easier to read and work from. Julia thanked those involved for their input.

Updates on the following items on the Action Plan were given:

B1 - Julia has received the minutes of the LSP Employment Strategy Group meeting and will forward to Karen Thornhill for circulation with the minutes of this meeting.

D2 – Mandy Naylor gave an update on the Wellbeing Directory which has been set up by Help Direct. This is available on the Lancashire County Council website and Mandy will forward the link to Karen Thornhill to circulate. Mandy confirmed that each month a different group of organisations is reviewed to make sure the information is as up to date as possible and also follow up calls to customers for feedback would alert them to any out of date information. Mandy requested that any updates to information on the website that people become aware of should be brought to her attention.

E1 – Minutes of the LSP Transport Thematic Group are to be circulated with these minutes to members of the Board.

J3 – 'To provide Home Fire Safety Checks'

Rachel Walker will e-mail targets for the Partnership Board to Karen Thornhill for circulation.

Alex asked if there were any other items on the Action Plan that people wanted to discuss.

Ray Brookfield raised the issue of pensions and the fact that the West Lancashire Pensioners Forum had not been consulted regarding the objective on the Action Plan 'Financial Security for Older People.' He advised that the current system of claiming benefits is felt to be degrading and demeaning by older people and a minimum pension of 40% of average earnings, in line with that received in other countries in Europe, would mean that the majority of people would not need to claim benefits.

Alex confirmed that this is a national issue rather than a local one and discussion took place regarding whether there were any steps the Partnership Board could take in influencing this.

Mandy suggested that the Board could help by ensuring that all opportunities in this area such as events that Board members were made aware of could be made known to local groups.

Greg advised that there is an organisation called 'Parliamentary Outreach' who go out into the community and put on workshops to advise people how to raise issues and access parliament. Greg offered to put Ray in contact with them.

6. Feedback from Pensioner Forum

The issue of free travel for pensioners in West Lancashire had been raised at previous meetings but it was agreed that it was not an issue for the Partnership Board. Jim Bevan advised that this issue had now been raised in the House of Commons by Rosie Cooper MP.

Ray also brought up the issue of road clearing/gritting during the recent bad weather and the impact this had had on some services, e.g. meals on wheels, due to health and safety issues.

Cllr Barron advised that Lancashire had performed better than other councils in the country and also assisted Yorkshire, Cumbria and Blackpool. As conditions worsened the council were only able to clear A and B roads and were told by the government that they had to cut down on this by 50%. The council were unable to get hold of stocks of grit they had ordered but gritters worked continuously through the Christmas and New Year period and managed to grit 1,500 out of 4,000 miles of road in the County.

7. Feedback from Central Lancs Planning & Commissioning Strategy Group – Glenn Harrison

Glenn confirmed that this was a partnership group consisting of members from PCT, LCC Adult & Community Services, District Councils, Voluntary Sector and Older People's Partnership Boards.

The next meeting is to be held on 2nd March 2010. Alex confirmed that he will be able to attend this meeting but Glenn asked if anyone would be able to deputise for Alex on the occasions he is unable to attend. Anybody who is interested should let Glenn know.

8. Update on Brookside

It was explained that Brookside is an Extra Care Housing Scheme with an on-site care team being developed in Aughton Street, Ormskirk. The scheme will provide 111 flats which will be available for rental initially but it is hoped that in future there can be some available to purchase or acquire on a shared equity basis (part owned/part rented) also. A cluster of flats for people with moderate/advanced dementia who require more specialist care will be included.

There will be a bistro on site available to residents and the wider community and a health and wellbeing centre including information services.

The PCT have put in funding for a day care resource centre for people with Dementia for residents of the scheme and the wider community of West Lancashire.

There will be multi function rooms available for use by local community groups for meetings, events and training.

The communal and garden areas have been designed to cater for the needs of people with Dementia.

Building work has been delayed by the recent bad weather but the project is due for completion late 2011. A meeting to discuss the design of the services is to take place on 5th February. David Hudson will keep the Board updated on progress.

9. Update on new Health Centre Ormskirk

Information regarding the new Health Centre has been previously circulated to Board members. Glenn confirmed that this is based at Ormskirk Hospital and offers primary care services such as GP appointments and Dental services. It will be available to people as an alternative to making an appointment with their own GP but will not provide all services as patient notes will not be available.

Glenn suggested that a future meeting of the Board could be held at the new Health Centre so that members could see the facilities provided.

10. Consultation events with users/carers on dementia care services – Glenn Harrison

Glenn is also involved with the Dementia Care Pathway events. Information had been previously circulated regarding these and the first event took place on Friday 15th January with 70 people attending including 16 carers and 2 service users with early stage dementia. It is anticipated that these people will be able to attend the next 4 events along with some who were unable to make it last Friday. The outcome of these events, which finish mid May, will inform the new Dementia Commissioning Strategy. Glenn will then report back to the Board with a summary of the outcomes.

11. Grant Funding and bidding rounds

i) LPSA funds and ii) HIA

Ann Fitzpatrick confirmed that agreement has now been reached with West Lancs Borough Council regarding the development of a Home Improvement Agency in the Borough. Outstanding LPSA funds are to be passed over from Lancashire County Council so that WLBC can set this up.

The Home Improvement Agency will offer advice to Homeowners to assist them in accessing grants, give information regarding safe traders, and assist older people to stay in their own homes.

Mandy asked if this would be set up in accordance with the standard across the County and Ann confirmed that WLBC had agreed to use the specification from the consultation.

12. Any other business

David Hudson explained the Community Links Project. Information regarding this had been circulated to members previously and is attached – Appendix 2.

David confirmed that this research will not be carried out in isolation but will consolidate existing research and information.

13. Date and time of next meetings:

To be confirmed.

APPENDIX 1

Draft membership of West Lancashire OPPB 7.9.09

Representation:

(10 Officers 5 Voluntary Sector Reps 10 Older Adult reps)

Individual members of the West Lancashire Older Persons Partnership Board to be responsible for:

- 1) provision of monitoring information for the purpose of performance management
- 2) seeking to address issues of under delivery on actions or targets in Action Plans for which the WLOPPB is responsible and which are identified as being the responsibility of their organisation
- 3) feedback and liaison within their organisation on issues relevant to the WLOPPB
- 4) attending meetings or providing briefed substitutes

Representation	Maximum Places Allowed
Lancashire county Council Adult Services	2
West Lancashire Borough Council	2
Central Lancashire PCT	1
Lancashire Care Trust	1
City and County elected Members	2
Emergency Services Rep (Fire, Police, Ambulance)	1
Other e.g. Lancashire Teaching Hospital	1 (10 in total)
Age Concern	1
Alzheimer's Society	1
CVS	1
West Lancashire Carers	1
Independent Service Providers (Help Direct)	1 (5 in total)
Better Government for Older People	1
Carers representatives	1
Older Peoples Reps e.g. Retirement Groups, Local Networks	6 (10 in total)
Total	25

The Board will in addition to the representation listed above retain the flexibility to co-opt members onto the Board whenever it feels that it is necessary for the ongoing work of the Board.

APPENDIX 2

Community Links: a three year action and research project

Age Concern Lancashire (ACL) has been awarded funding from the Big Lottery Fund to examine whether the involvement of local communities in the development of services for older people results in better provision. The three year funding has been won against intense competition and will build on a pilot project that sought the views of older people on services¹. Three contrasting areas of Lancashire will be studied as development areas: Lancaster with a focus on rural areas; West Lancashire with a focus on the urban and deprived wards in Skelmersdale; and Pendle with a focus on Black and Minority Ethnic older people.

There is abundant evidence that, whatever improvements have been made in the provision of services, many people are dissatisfied with either the scope or the quality of the support that they receive. However, not all aspirations can be met, particularly at times of resource constraints. ACL will support communities in the selected areas to further consider these issues.

The research will help older people and communities:

- to think about wants, needs, resources;
- to develop understanding of the options for services;
- to choose services for their localities;
- to better use and develop resources to support older people.

Data will be collected on:

- the population characteristics of development areas and Lancashire;
- the impact of service changes between 2010 and 2012;
- the well-being of participating older people;
- the support wanted by older people; and
- the experiences of older people, commissioners, providers and community members.

Older people will play a key role in the research, not only in consultations but also in the carrying out of the research.

Further details about the project are available from Geraldine Moore the Chief Officer of Age Concern Lancashire. Please get in touch if you would like to be kept informed about the project. There will be a regular newsletter and a website from which further details can be obtained. We will also be establishing an Advisory Group and other more local groups for the lifetime of the research.

¹ Report available from Age Concern Lancashire email sbailey@ageconcernlancs.org.uk or log onto our website www.ageconcernlancs.org