

West Lancashire Partnership Board for Older People

Meeting held Monday 19 April 2010

Committee Room 1 West Lancs Borough Council, Ormskirk

PRESENT

NAME	DESIGNATION
Dr Alex McMinn	Chair
Glenn Harrison	NHS Central Lancs
Sheila Owen	West Lancs Pensioners Forum
Richard Ford	Age Concern – WL Project Manager
Pat Roberts	Aughton/Ormskirk U3A
Fred Mahoney	U3A
John Stanley	U3A Burscough
Ray Brookfield	West Lancashire Pensioners Forum
Mandy Naylor	Help Direct
Tracey Jardine	LCC Partnership Officer
Greg Mitton	WL CVS Chief Officer
Shelley Gregory	Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
Louisa Blundell	WLBC
May Blake	WLBC (Councillor)
Karen Thornhill	LCC Minute Taker
Frances Frost	LCC Minute Taker (Shadow)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received as follows:-

David Hudson	Age Concern
Beverley Page-Banks	Alzheimer's Society
Kiran Banati	LCC Strategic Development Unit
Peter Johnson	Welfare Rights Service
Margaret Parks	U3A
Kim Haworth	LCC Integrated Commissioning

Alex McMinn opened the meeting, and read out the apologies

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

Louisa Blundell gave an update of the Brookside development.

She advised that there had not been much progress since the last meeting in January. Some site work had begun and the completion date was still on target to complete in September 2011.

Glenn Harrison advised that the new Health Centre based at Ormskirk Hospital was now open.

Alex McMinn advised that Steve Sylvester who is officer on the OPPB and Telecare and Brookside development funding had been offered early retirement and had left. Ann Fitzpatrick had taken over the role and had also now been offered early retirement, she also has now left, so Kim Haworth (Steve and Ann's manager) has taken over in a temporary capacity whilst someone is found to fill the post, but not sure who this will be as yet.

Also, Karen who has been the minute taker for this meeting for some time now has moved to another post in LCC and Frances has taken up the minute taking in her place. So we are saying goodbye to Karen, and thank you for all your help, and hello to Frances.

3. 50+ Assembly Presentation – by David Halpin

Alex McMinn welcomed David Halpin to the meeting.

David Halpin passed around copies of his 50+ Assembly Presentation to all members at the meeting. He had also brought a few copies of the booklet Strategy for an Aging Population (extra copies of this can be obtained from David Halpin).

Alex advised if anyone wished to have their own copy they could contact Frances who would take their names and contact David Halpin for this.

Presentation (background)

The presentation was a strategy for an ageing population to 2025. An information bulletin (issue1, March 2010), was also handed out as was a leaflet on The Lancashire 50+ Assembly, Assembly Representatives, Outline Guidance. (copies are available for those who require them, from Frances)

Groups represented needed to be aged 50+ and the group needed to have 70 or more members (3 plus a chairperson was not enough).

Inaugural meeting of 50+ was held in Wirral September 2009 and David Rowbottam was elected as chairperson of Pendle in December 2009.

50+ Assembly is a self governing, self organising body. The Assembly's officer is David Halpin.

People who are interested in this forum should come as themselves rather than as a representative of an area, and not have to report back, they can give their own skills and time. Those attending should not be Local Government officers or Councillors.

All report to Local Strategy Partnerships (LSP's)

David noted that this generation is not like any before, there are over 3½ million over the age of 65. Retired people need to be seen as full citizens not just retired

people. It is necessary to know how to support older people toward financial and personal security.

Alex thanked David for his presentation. He asked if there were links between Private, public and 3rd sectors.

David advised that this was the case.

Alex asked if anyone had questions for David.

Mandy Naylor are volunteers representing themselves

David replied that anyone from the partnership boards other groups etc are all there as individuals, they do not have to give feedback.

Sheila Owen asked about page 6 outcome 1 regarding financial security. The pensioners forum is trying to get a decent pension for all, what is the partnership doing about this.

David advised that pensions are set by national government so Partnerships and Local Authorities cannot influence this.

Tracey noted these issues in the Action Plan
A multi-Agency group including Welfare Rights had produced a report and were working on a plan regarding benefits maximisation.

Pat Roberts asked what was meant by 'financial security'

Sheila stated that she was a pensioner and could not work, or afford to set up a company, so she was not able to subsidise her pension by other means, many people were in this position.

David stated people maximising benefits, people working for longer, etc were options which were being looked into. People needed to voice their concerns to their Local Councillors, their MP or the Minister of State. He added that maybe a representative from the Department of Works and Pensions could be invited to the meetings of the Older People's Partnership Board.

Greg Mitton asked if anyone from West Lancs had enquired about the 50+ Assembly meetings

David reported that no one had as yet, but there were 3 places available. He added that it was needed to have a range of people from all walks of life. Names from Pensioners Forum and Partnership Boards would be good to have. The CVS could become involved. The meetings are held in East Cliff in Preston and expenses are available for this, in cash on the day, food is also available.

Mandy asked what would happen if several people from one category only came.

David advised that this had not come up as yet.

Fred Mahoney very little information on Older People, he had tried the internet.

David stated that our society is very 'young person' focused, whereas people are now living longer and consequently the population is getting older. Dementia is a concern, and in general older people have health problems and health needs.

Greg asked if people who were 50+ were to be encouraged to engage more.

Fred stated that the only way to change things is to have targets specifically relating to older people.

David need to target what Older People are asking for, ie: end to their financial problems. People who have retired need more money in order to enjoy their retirement. Older people's needs need to be at the heart of the planning.

Alex advised that since 1984 there were documents stating that there would be an ageing population in the future. He added that in the University of the 3rd Age older people are helped to keep mentally and [physically active with all the activities on offer. There are health benefits in keeping older people as active as they can manage and as alert as possible. The diseases of old age cost money so it is an investment to keep the ageing population fit and healthy.

David reminded all that the next meeting for 50+ Assembly was to take place in Eastcliff on 28 April if anyone wished to attend.

Greg noted that there were parking problems at the Eastcliff Offices and anyone who wished to attend would need to contact beforehand to arrange a parking permit.

At this point in the meeting David Halpin took his leave.

Glenn advised that there was a need to develop an Action Plan and broaden issues for when meet again.

Greg stated that the Older People's Partnership Board should make sure the 3 spare places on the 50+ Assembly meeting were filled from the West Lancs area.

Glenn advised that we need to have a voice in that forum.

Alex noted that David had mentioned inviting a Minister from the Department of Works and Pensions etc.

Tracey Jardine queried what they would ask them.

Alex advised that we could express concerns over what their policies were for the ageing population.

Pat noted that in the majority of cases the financial issues of retirement were uppermost in people's minds and worries

Fred noted that the DWP would hopefully be able to shed some light on their policies for the older people.

Alex advised that DWP is looking at the issue of pensions (65+ and active)

4. Consultation Proposed changes on the Action Plan

Tracey advised that the Action Plan was now moving forward. Glenn had taken Ann to hospital as she was unwell and the Action Plan had not been completed, but this was now well underway. The next meeting will be in May and it should be ready to bring to the board.

Alex asked if it would be possible for the outcome to be sent out via e'mail rather than wait for the next meeting, and would the upcoming elections make any real changes to the outcome.

Tracey advised that it was quite time consuming and they were ploughing ahead and close to the finish now. She noted that whatever result came from the elections the project needs to go ahead

Alex thanked Tracey for the work she had undertaken with the Action Plan.

5. Feedback from Pensioners Forum

Ray Brookfield advised that the group was expanding and had around one hundred members now. He reported that the feeling was that pensioners were 'being robbed by the government'. He advised that gritting, or the lack of this, over the recent bad winter was an issue for lots of pensioners and it was disappointing to be advised that this was not an issue for this meeting. He noted that maybe it was needed to have more people on this board who were retired. There is a need to address the issues of the older people in regard to issues about health, travel and money etc. Possibly if pensions were worth more then there would be fewer issues.

Sheila noted that if pensions were worth more then pensioners would have fewer issues in regard to travel, heating, food etc, they only want a decent living, nothing more.

Councillor May Blake advised that the term Older People usually means people who are 50+ and there are Older People on this board. She added that in relation to the gritting issue, this is the realm of Lancashire County Council. West Lancs Borough Council have some funding for gritting main roads, and it was noted that West Lancashire was one of the best around for gritting.

In relation to having more money for pensions, this is possibly still a while off happening.

Alex advised that these are getting into the realm of national issues, this is a dilemma and some issues are out of the bounds of this meeting.

At this point David Halpin arrived (See item 3 for his presentation)

Ray noted that the Pensioners Forum have their own manifesto, which advises what the pensioners want. This has been given to the Labour Party, but they may not take a lot of notice of this.

Louisa Blundell asked if Age Concern were still helping with the meetings.

Ray advised that they were.

Louisa asked if discussion from OPPB is still being taken to forums and is feedback still on the agenda.

Ray explained that members have been questioning whether he is wasting time attending these meetings, as members still feel they no better off.

Louisa will share AP and forums can look at and discuss.

6. Feedback from Adult and Community Services Inspection

Alex advised that the Care and Quality Commission carried out an Ofsted type inspection, chairpersons from the various partnership boards were asked to attend and answer questions from the inspectors. Meetings were briefed by Adult and Community Services. The report would be due about the middle of April then go to a cabinet meeting in June, the County Council will then have 6 months to respond to any complaints which may arise.

Alex noted that there was a slot for CVS on the agenda.

7. Feedback from Central Lancs Planning and Commissioning Strategy Group

Glenn advised that this is the steering group for Older People's services. They meet on a quarterly basis, they oversee and plan for the improvement of services and report to the Older People's Partnership Board. In relation to the Dementia strategy there is a massive issue around financial costs. There have been Dementia workshops and the last one will take place on 13 May at Wellington Park Hotel Leyland, all are welcome to attend. Glenn added that he would send the flyers to Frances to circulate.

The outcome of the workshop is to develop a new commission strategy (multi agency) to improve services and shift monies from hospital based care/residential care try though multi agency input to improve the services.

The Transitional Care Services are for those who need other care as well as their Dementia ie: Stroke support, Heart Attack or issues of carers falling ill etc and this needs support as well as their Dementia.

Louisa Blundell noted that there was a South Ribble Anchor Housing, and each OPPB has nominated a deputy for the meetings, and asked for anyone who was interested in deputising for Alex to attend these meetings would let Glenn know if they are interested.

Alex thanked Glenn for his input.

It was noted at the end of the meeting that Greg Mitton had expressed an interest in deputising for Alex at the meetings.

8. Lancashire Local Report

It was noted by Councillor Blake that the Lancashire Local was no longer meeting but this was to be replaced, as it had worked well in West Lancashire, it looked at issues from the Parish Councils and people liked the face to face contact with their local Council Officers who are there to look at issues which concern them.

Tracey reported that Lancashire Local report was a delegation of County Councillors and Borough Councillors who brought their respective issues and made joint decisions. The meeting was a popular one which was held in public but was not a public meeting.

Proposals from County Council will include; what is right for the district (not one size fits all), enhancing the role of County Council's, forging partnerships and giving the people a say in decision making.

9. Grant Funding and Bidding Rounds

- a. LPSA funds**
- b. HIA**

Louisa (a)The LPSA funding - need to be reallocating funds if they are still available, also how much there is to be used.

Greg noted that the May bids needed to be looked at. Bid- Community assets and resources. Need to find out how much LPSA funding is left hand how much can be used. This needs to be followed up with Kim Haworth.

(b) HIA done

10. Any Other Business:

A letter from Lancashire Fire Rescue Service was brought to the meeting by **Shelley Gregory**, any extra copies can be requested through Frances.

11. Time and Date of next Meeting:

27 May 2010 at 10:00 am
WLBC 52 Derby Street Ormskirk, Committee Room 2/3

**** Please check with reception in regard to parking ****