

WEST LANCASHIRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD FOR OLDER PEOPLE

MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 23 JULY 2010.

COMMITTEE ROOM 2, WEST LANCS BOROUGH COUNCIL, ORMSKIRK

PRESENT

NAME	DESIGNATION
Dr Alex McMinn	Chair
Cllr May Blake	West Lancashire Borough Council
Tracey Jardine	LCC Partnership Officer
Louise Blundell	West Lancashire Borough Council
Sheila Owen	West Lancashire Pensioners Forum
Raymond Brookfield	West Lancashire Pensioners Forum
Mandy Naylor	Help Direct
Fred Mahoney	U3A
Greg Mitten	West Lancashire CVS
John Stanley	Burscough U3A
Margaret Park	U3A Upholland
Bev Taylor	Age Concern Lancs
Kiran Banati	LCC
Glenn Harrison	NHS Central Lancs

1. APOLOGIES

NAME	DESIGNATION
Peter Johnson	Welfare Rights
Cllr Malcolm Barron	
Shelley Gregory	WL Fire Rescue Service
Pat Roberts	Aughton and Ormskirk U3A

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

These were agreed as an accurate record.

Tracey advised that LCC needed to look at funding as it was not able to provide another person for the board at the management level of Ann Fitzpatrick, although a support Officer would be sought in order for some support to be made available to the board.

Alex asked if he should have heard this from Richard Jones' and not just have it advised during the meeting today.

Tracey advised that CC was currently under restructure and a manager at the level of Ann Fitzpatrick was not going to be possible

3. Report from Age Concern Research Officer – Ian Sydney

Ian advised that he group obtained its funding from a lottery grant. They looked at the issues in regard to an ageing population and its needs and wants. It is surrounding the responses of the people themselves, what they feel they need and could use to help themselves and/or help others or their local community.

There will be half day seminars from now until November, in the Lancashire area (West Lancs to Pendle) for WL Groups (Care Homes, U3A's etc) on how to understand their community. How services can be delivered to people in their areas and what projects can be set up. A summary of the services will be sent round.

Question – are you looking at specific groups of people.

Answer – No, any older people's groups across the board.

Question – is this just talking shop – will we see the benefit of this

Answer – not just talking shop, people need to tell us what they need and want to help their community, we need to have this information in order to try to set up the services needed.

Question – what about the existing groups, for instance the U3A's, have you spoken to them to see what they can do to help.

Answer – we intend to interact with all older people's groups to ensure help from all areas to try and get a better quality of life for the ageing population of West Lancs.

Alex asked Ian if he could come back to the WLOPPB meeting, and feedback the information he has gleaned, and what timescale would this be.

Ian advised that the next seminar was in September and there were also newsletters.

Alex noted that the WLOPPB meetings usually took place 6 – 8 weeks apart. He asked the meeting if they would like to have feedback from Ian, and all agreed this would be very helpful.

Alex thanked Ian for his input at the meeting and said the board looked forward to hearing from him in the near future.

- Ian left the meeting room *

4. Report of Older Persons Champion – Councillor May Blake

Cllr May Blake advised that she had been made aware that there were lots of older people in West Lancs who were not aware of the boards who are out there trying to help their communities. She advised that there was an Older People's grant of £2,000 which is available to be shared between any groups who apply for funding. The meeting on 17 July had been disappointing as not many older people took part.

There was to be a housing survey in the Ormskirk and Skelmersdale areas, for older people to see what their needs were.

Tracey advised that those who were 50+ and over in the West Lancs area whether in their own homes or in Sheltered Accommodation, were to be asked what amenities they felt they would like to access (Monday 10-12 in the Chapel Gallery, Ormskirk and Dignum Community Centre).

Mandy noted that there had been no feedback from the 50+ meeting on Wednesday in regard to Sheltered Housing. Some people may want to access a Warden Service, or activities which are available etc, even though they are not living within the Sheltered Housing complex. She asked for the various groups attending to collate a response from their membership to see what the needs/wants from each group.

Alex advised that the age range was 50+ for all the older people who were eligible for the project, and this was a large band width as some people within this age group would need more input than others, as those who were more, 'high dependency' in their needs and others were more 'able bodied'.

Sheila advised that she was a home owner and did not feel that in her own circumstances that she would be eligible to sell her house and be given Sheltered Housing. She noted that any amenities she was to try and access could possibly be 'means tested' which would mean she would have to pay for everything she used, but if she was in the Sheltered Housing she would be able to use the facilities on site.

Mandy advised that the idea was for those who were in their own homes to be able to access the same levels of amenities and activities of those who were living in Sheltered Housing, not necessarily for them to move to Sheltered Housing.

Mandy advised that representatives were needed to advise what they would like for the future, and then this could be looked at to see if it was feasible.

Glenn noted that most of the care for those who are in sheltered housing will be asked what they would like for the future, those who cannot answer this will be represented by their carers, or an advocate who could advise what future services they may need.

The questionnaire has gone out to all people, not just a selected few.

It was noted that the normal, run-of-the-mill Sheltered Housing tended to be a one bedroomed property, with little or no parking facilities. It would be an improvement if the Sheltered Housing options had two bedrooms and some parking, which would leave the possibility for those who can live there more comfortably with the person they were caring for.

It was advised that there was to be an open meeting on Monday, to advise on such issues.

Louise advised that she would lead the Sub-Committee.

Cllr May Blake advised that on 1 October it was Older People's Day, David Halpin was going to be involved, there would be a meeting and events, and the Action Plan would be brought up at the meeting, it was thought that Dave Guest was to be involved also.

Alex noted that the Aughton and Ormskirk U3A were in negotiation with Estate Agents in regard to hiring a shop for the week, this was to do with Well Being, and this would possibly run into four figures.

It was noted that the Older People's Day was to make people aware of the problems and possibilities for communities. Funding would be needed to help with this.

Alex asked if there were posters in relation to the day.

Louise advised that there were posters on the internet and these could be downloaded along with an information pack for Older People's Day.

Greg advised that he and Bev would meet in regard to her new role – Ecumenical Centre and activities to be documented. And that he would like to be part of the planning group. It was noted that there is an Age Concern building in Ormskirk town centre, and the Skelmersdale area needed to be looked at also.

Bev advised that she was new and was still learning about the area.

Glenn advised that he felt there were still lots of people who were not aware of the existence of the West Lancs Older People's Partnership Board, we need to let people know that we are a body of people who want to help and find out what the people in this catchment area want, and if there are others who want to join our group.

Louisa noted that publicity was needed.

Alex stated that the U3A were well on with this and he would arrangements

Tracey agreed that a joint approach was needed to let everyone know what the group was about and what it was doing to help the older people in the area.

5. Report of Lancashire 50+ Assembly – Fred Mahoney

Alex advised that it had been arranged at the last meeting that Fred was to be the representative and report back.

Fred advised that he had attended the meeting in July and had some background information in regard to the 50+ Assembly. Roughly half of the committee of the 50+ Assembly were represented at the meeting, these were mostly women. It was an eclectic group, they decided what was to be discussed in the future, which included; Buss Passes, Hospital Care, not being able to pay accounts by cheque to the Council –m Doc 13 – Older People.

Also discussed was the role of the family in the care of elderly relatives.

The next meeting is to take place on 5 August 2010

Fred advised that there was some uncertainty about what the future held for the 50+ Assembly Group.

Alex stated that the Later Life Co-Ordinaotor was Bridget Barton Sediki, from the North West Regional Government Office

Alex advised that a voice was needed to support David and Fred to continue.

May said she would do this.

6. Feedback – Pensioners Forum at U3A (Aughton-Ormskirk, Upholland, Burscough)

Ray stated that it was still an issue that Older People need to have a better pension in order to have a better life, be able to keep warm in the winter etc (his mother in law received a letter from the queen – eligible for the extra £80 to keep warm – but she is not eligible to receive this because she is living with him and he pays the heating bills!! – he is taking this up with his MP). He advised that there are lots of people in this position. There has been a review of the heating allowance and it has been reduced from £100 per person to £50 per person.

Sheila advised that Older People are being robbed, the raise in pension is only £2.40p per week. The tax rate is only lower when the person reaches the age of over 64 years. VAT is back in place and will go up again in January, nothing in all this is helping those who cannot earn more money to cover the extra costs.

Sheila added that all these committee meetings are not helping the situation.

Glenn noted that he felt there were lots of people in the position of Ray's mother in law, they do not get the help they should do because of living with their families.

May advised that 'power of attorney' was needed to help the situation then the older person could sign the cheques, although it is often difficult to explain to the older person why they have to sign a cheque as they may not understand.

Alex – Leisure services - local paper tells of the loss of swimming for free but we have not been told about this as yet.

Louisa advised that the Leisure Services is a service in its own rights, she has not heard about the cuts but will check this out as soon as she can.

Alex noted that there was 10% per year recruiting in the Aughton/Burscough areas.

7. Feedback of Central Lancs Planning & Commissioning Group – Glen Harrison

1 Unfortunately, due to the timing of other associated work it was decided to postpone the last Central Lancs Planning & Commissioning Strategy Group meeting and the next meeting is scheduled for 7 September 2010 at 2 – 4 venue to be confirmed.

2 the Dementia Workshops held between January to May 2010 were now completed. These had proved to be extremely successful with really useful contribution and feedback from both staff and carers. The outcome of the workshops will be the development of a new dementia services commissioning strategy across health and social care. This is due to be completed August/September 2010 and will be initially offered as a draft document out for 90 day consultation and will be sent to all stakeholder groups and organisations. The draft strategy document will be available on the PCT and LCC websites for anyone who wishes to provide their comments and feedback.

Due to the success of the dementia workshops it has been agreed to follow the same structured model and hold a series of three workshops to review transitional care services.

15 October 2010 Wellington Park Hotel, Leyland
19 November 2010 Preston North End
17 December 2010 Preston North End

Development is straight after the consultation (dementia) Nurses, Doctors, Services to be provided, all people need to get involved and help to develop the Dementia Services.

Fred asked what was wrong with the system we have now.

Greg replied nothing, but the system is divided

Fred advised that he was concerned about the service up and running, that it will be set up and then it will change again in a few years.

Glenn replied that the people are telling us that it is not working so we need to try to make it better, each service is separate and not consistent and we need to have some consistency

8. Future Speakers – (suggestions from members)

Alex advised that the time table was very full and it was difficult to ask someone to come to speak and only offer them a small time slot. Possibly we could ask the Later Life person, Bridget – Barton Sediki.

Fred proposed that Harry Gray be asked to make some contribution.

9. Help Direct – Mandy Naylor

Mandy advised that the services was for all members of the County. There was a gap in the service. Electric £10 costs overall.

10. Action Plan – Mandy Naylor (also questionnaire)

The draft Action Plan was handed out at the meeting. It was noted that possibly Carers Association could become involved. A day to be planned to involve people with the Action Plan, the documentation was needed for people to see what was happening. She noted that it was necessary to have the opinions of the public and not just committee members

Alex thanked Mandy for all her work on the Draft Action Plan. He noted that the Action Plan should become a standard item on the Agenda of the meeting.

11. Any Other Business

Alex introduced Kiran Barti from Adult and Social Care Services, who was the Community and Engagement Officer (who arrived at the meeting late and had not been introduced to all at the meeting)

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 9 September 2010 at 10:00 am 2010 (Hopefully the usual Room in WLBC offices Ormskirk)