MINUTES

OLDER PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP

Date and Time of Meeting	16 th April 2012 – 10am – 12 noon
Attendees	Alex McMinn
	Louisa Blundell
	Raymond Brookfield
	Sheila Owen
	Louise Cropper
	Shelley Gregory
	Joanne McKnight
-	Councillor May Blake
Apologies For Absence	Beverley Garrity
	Glenn Harrison
	Beth Blamires
	Margaret Park
	Beverley Page-Banks
	Richard Ford
	Marian Radford
	Kiran Banati

1.	Minutes of previous meeting		
	None	Action	<u>Time</u>
2.	Administration	AMcM /EB	
	Alex provided an overview of the background to the former Older People's Partnership and an update on the position with regard to the provision of administration for the current Older People's Partnership (OPP)	Action	Time
	Elizabeth Blamires, Chair WL CVS had offered to arrange administrative support. This was to be provided by an apprentice at the CVS, however they were unable to attend this meeting. Alex to talk to Elizabeth.	AMcM	
	Alex advised that the West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) had allocated £1,600 to the OPP for 2012 – 13. Alex proposed this funded administration and travel expenses incurred by representatives of the partnership when attending, for example 50+ Assembly.		
	Accounts for this funding would need to be maintained as part of the administration and two signatures (Chair and WLBC Officer) would be required to sign off expenses.	CVS / ALL	
	A brief discussion was had about the meetings attended by members of the partnership, including the 50+ Assembly and Older People's Champion Network which Alex had recently represented the OPP at the last meeting.		

3.	Terms of reference	AMcM	
0.	Terms of reference had been signed off by the LSP and circulated to members of the OPP for reference.	Action	<u>Time</u>
4	LSP Thematic Group Focus – Loneliness	AMcMinn	
	Alex, as Chair of the OPP, attends the LSP meetings. He provided background on the discussion had at the Health and Well Being Thematic Group about loneliness and specifically in older people. The outcome of discussions at this meeting was that the OPP had been asked to look at loneliness in older people in West Lancashire and report back to the LSP.	Action	<u>Time</u>
	Alex circulated copies of Combating Loneliness – A guide for Local Authorities and requested that members champion this issue and consider how examples of good practice would translate in West Lancashire. Alex suggested that maybe a representative could be identified within each Ward of West Lancashire to champion the issue in their area and look to estimate the level of loneliness in their Ward.	ALL	
	The issue was well received by members of the OPP and Ray and Sheila provided examples of loneliness they have come across.		
	Alex circulated papers from the Health and Well Being Thematic Group and referenced matters raised in the report issued in 2009 – 'Society for All Ages.'		
	He also advised Stafford University had produced papers on loneliness and in his capacity of Chair of a national group could access these for use by the OPP.		
	Louise advised that Help Direct (part of Age UK) have undertaken a project on Befriending and that a Buddy Up Group had been set up. They have identified what social activity is available in West Lancashire and access to it, which has enabled gaps to be identified. Lancashire County Council has identified befriending as a priority area.		
	Alex and Louise are to arrange to meet ahead of the next OPP meeting in July to understand the work already undertaken. Alex to also contact Stafford University.	AmcM / LC	
	Depending on the speed of progress with these actions Alex may call an interim meeting before July.		

(Foot care Services – West Lancashire provided by Age UK Lancashire contact 01695 586511 & Foot Care Services provided by Age Concern Central Lancashire contact 01772 270732.)

week. She was concerned that if all enquiries about foot care services took the same number of calls that her enquiry did

some older people may give up.

Ray also expressed concerns that Council Members do not understand older people and spoke about one experience he had recently. Alex advised that he always found WLBC Members and Officers receptive to his views.

A brief discussion was had about Age Action Alliance, an independent alliance of organizations, which has adopted a new approach to the problems of ageing focused on finding practical means to establish social justice for older people. Various government departments are part of this alliance. (www.ageactionalliance.org). 5050 Vision North West Forum on Ageing was also discussed and Louisa confirmed that this strategic partnership is still operational. (www.5050vision.com)

Shelley asked whether the OPP were going to arrange an event on Older People's Day in October this year. Nothing was planned at present.

Skelmersdale Pensioners Forum organised their own events in 2011 and Ray and Sheila reported that it was a very successful. Alex asked about the outcomes from the activities arranged, had the activities carried on. Ray advised some had.

Linked to the matter of loneliness and use of tablet computers by U3A, Joanne advised that children under 12 had been issued with laptop/tablet computers and she wondered if it would be possible for older people to be issued with a tablet computer with webcam to improve communication with friends and reduce isolation and loneliness. Some members thought that it was unlikely that funding would be available from government to do this.

Alex advised that the Chair of the Commissioning Team for Central Lancashire was Dr Kane and that he proposed to write to Dr Kane to invite him to attend a meeting of the OPP to brief

	members on the new commissioning arrangements.		
	Alex thanked Louisa and Steve for their continued support.		
5.	Date and time of next meeting	ALL	1
	Meetings to be held in the Cabinet and Committee Room at	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>
	West Lancashire Borough Council Offices, Ormskirk.		
	18 th July 2012 – 14.00pm - 16.00pm		
	11 th October 2012 – 10.00am – 12.00noon		