



**WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM**  
 Acting Secretary: Mr. Roy Girdler  
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**SPEAK AND BE HEARD**

**Minutes of Over 50s Forum Held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2006**  
**Committee Room 3 Civic Centre**

**Apologies:** J Speakman, K Pearce, Roy Girdler, Jean Girdler

**Present:** 30 Members, Kate Crow, Barbara Nelson

In the absence of Rose Powell, Barbara Nelson took the minutes

Item	Agenda	Action/ information/ answers to questions
1	<p>Kate Crow – Manager Equipment Services            Community Equipment and Adaptations Service provides equipment and adaptations which help people who have problems with everyday activities because of illness, disability or age.</p> <p>It is an integrated service between            Wolverhampton Social Services and the Primary Care Trust</p> <p>Only available to residents of Wolverhampton to help to maintain peoples health, wellbeing and independence</p> <p>Important part of discharges from hospital enabling people to go home safely.</p> <p>All equipment are on loan and are maintained and serviced</p> <p>Adaptations works under £1000 are free regardless if person is an owner occupier or living in rented accommodation.</p> <p>Work in Council properties is free to tenants. However privately / owned / rented properties can get the work done via a disabled facilities grant.</p> <p>For major adaptations such as level access showers, stair lifts, and extensions, the grant</p>	

	<p>available is up to £25K. It is means tested. There is currently a National Review taking place in which government is looking to increase the limit for future grants.</p> <p>Referrals for this service is also accepted from physiotherapists and District Nurses</p>	
	<p>The Neville Garret Centre provides display of equipments, display of adaptations, information / advice on aspects of disability. They also provide a drop in service, no appointment is necessary. The assessment can be carried out at the centre and recipients can go away with a prescription of what they need.</p> <p>In addition to the above the members were invited to become board members and provide advice to the community equipment services to help them to deliver the service in the most effective way. For more information Kate can be contacted on 553598</p>	
Q	1. How efficient is your equipment collection service?	<p>A large amount of equipments are collected daily</p> <p>Individuals can also return equipments</p> <p>High cost equipments collected first</p> <p>There is a waiting list for non priority equipments</p>
Q	2. If work under £1k is free if the work is £1500 will the applicant only need to provide £500?	Contribution does not depend on how much the work cost it is dependent on the individual financial status
Q	3. Are you able to help to relocate cupboards?	Yes, however sometimes only advice is provided
Q	4. Why is the bathroom to shower conversions taking so long?	We are currently processing 30 referrals daily, there are some staffing issues that are being addressed, and there is currently a backlog of outstanding work hence the need to prioritise the work
Q	5. Do you provide an approved list of contractors?	<p>Yes but we do not recommend which builder you use.</p> <p>We advise people to go through our service because they will receive advice on what services is needed</p>
Q	6. Who is responsible for assessing the assessors, because some applicants are	OTs are qualified to degree level and received continuous

	excluded from services	training and development  Some people may not qualify for services on offer because they do not meet the criteria. However Wolverhampton is very generous in this area of service provision
Q	7. Has Wolverhampton HOMES contacted you concerning partnership working?	NO contact has been made. It was agreed that Kate Crow would arrange to have talks with Bruce Moore to discuss fair practice so that the money is not wasted doing the same job twice.
Q	8. Do you have a comprehensive list of all the services you provide?	It is not comprehensive, but it gives information on how to access all of the equipments on offer
Q	9. Do you have any difficulties with stair lift adaptations?	There are a number of adaptations to suit different stairs. If a stair lift cannot be fitted, a vertical life will be offered or an extension based on the outcome of the assessment
2	Election to secretary's post - Roy Girdler was nominated as the secretary by Mr Gabb and seconded by Mr Evans	
3	Minutes of the last meeting- was agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mr Griffiths and Pat O'dowd	
4	Matters arising - Marjorie Wedge told the Forum that since Dr Max Kalsi told us about the new Bowel Cancer Screening programme due to commence in April 06  Mike asked John Price if he has received a response about the proposed closures of Learning Disability Day Centres. No response to date.  Mike said that Cllr Lawrence wrote a letter stating that there was never a proposal for the closure of the day centres	The government has decided to delay the funding for this project
5	Chairman's Remarks – The chairman would like to thank David Walker for chairing last months meeting	
6	Treasurer's Report	None given
7	Correspondence	Ivy Summon would like to thank the Forum members for the donations given to the Compton Hospice in memory of Charles

<p>8</p>	<p>Sub – Committee Reports-</p> <p>The Health Sub group discussed and responded to 4 consultation documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to Strategic Health Authority ( the group voted against the proposal to amalgamate a large area of the black country into one strategic health authority)</li> <li>• Ambulance Services ( The group voted against the proposal to reduce the 31 ambulance service to 11)</li> <li>• Primary Care Trust (The group agreed for the Birmingham Primary Care Trust to be reduce from 4 to 3)</li> <li>• Changes to New Cross Hospital (The group agreed to vote for option 4 which includes building of a multi storey car park and re routing of some of the hospital buses and the introductions of some historical features of the area</li> </ul> <p>The Housing Sub group- the group had a low turn out of members to the last meeting because they wrongly attended the Pensioners Convention meeting instead.</p> <p>The group has submitted a number of questions to Bruce Moore at Wolverhampton HOMES and is awaiting his response.</p> <p>Public Safety Sub group – their next meeting will take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 06 in meeting room 2</p> <p>The Loos Sub group – No report The transport Sub group - CENTRO confirm that the 531 hospital service will continue because there is no intentions to remove funding</p> <p>Communication Sub group – No report</p>	<p>Marjorie confirmed that two days before the consultation was completed the decision of what the hospital intended to do was published in the Press.</p> <p>It was felt that the consultation exercise was a waste of time because the decisions were already made</p> <p>It was also stated by another member that correspondence have been seen indicating that the NHS will be sold off to a European Country because the Health service is in crisis</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Any Other Business-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members told of a new scam in which they received a card telling them that there is a parcel for them to collect from the Parcel Delivery Service (PDS) and as soon as you ring the telephone number given immediately £15 is added onto your bill</li> <li>• A member of The Friendship Group ask for clarification on what the yearly membership</li> </ul>	<p>Members advise to contract Royal Mail or Wolverhampton Trading Standards and alert Them</p> <p>Member advise that it gives their group a voice to raise</p>

	<p>contribution of £5 provides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A member informed the Forum that his wife rang CENTRO to provide a bus shelter in the Bradmore area and within a short time the shelter was erected.</li> <li>• There is a Citizen opinion group meeting on Wednesday 26 April 06 at 10 – 12noon in the Civic Centre</li> <li>• A member stated that a communication Tower is to be erected at Bradmore. The consultation is now taking place</li> </ul> <p>A member encouraged members to use their vote at the up coming local elections.</p>	<p>issues of concerns and also to provide solutions</p> <p>The chair suggested that the member should write to CENTRO and thank them</p> <p>Contact Diane Cook on Telephone 551222 for more information</p>
9	<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006 Committee Room 3, Civic Centre</p>	