



WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM

Secretary: Mr. Roy Girdler

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SPEAK AND BE HEARD

Minutes of Over 50s Forum Wednesday
20th July 2007, Civic Centre

Apologies: B. Purshouse, R.Powell, R.Jones, J. Russell, T. Russell,
S Griffiths, Mr. Rai, E. Grizzle, D Walker

Present: 25 members, Gurdev Singh Bal, Fiona King-ArenaTheatre

Marjorie Wedge chaired the meeting

Item		Actions
1.	Marjorie welcomed Fiona King from the Arena Theatre. Fiona informed the meeting that the Express and Star is providing discounted tickets for £2.00 for groups and people who don't normally attend the theatre for the summer rep season for the Tuesday, Thursday or Friday Matinees only. Those interested should contact Rose Powell to access the concessionary tickets.	
2.	<p>Minutes of the Last meeting</p> <p>"Buses with disabled access, only run hourly" should be recorded as a separate sentence (pg 3)</p> <p>"A simple funeral can cost as much as £2,300" not £3,200 (pg 4)</p> <p>Following amendments Roy Girdler accepted the minutes and it was seconded by Sandra Ullah.</p>	
2	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>Brian O'Leary's presentation - will be taken as a separate agenda item.</p> <p>Blue badge holders - David still awaiting reply from Tim Philpott. *</p> <p>Mrs. Cleals letter – Roy said that Pat McFadden apologies for the delay in responding he is awaiting letter from Minister of Health Mr. Johnson</p> <p>Pg 3 comments about privatization – Mike said that Patricia Hewitt has been relieved of duty and as a result he has written to the new Health Officer Mr. Johnson</p>	<p>*This has actually received by the Chair who was absent to report today</p>
3.	<p>Chairs Remarks</p> <p>The Chair presented the cabinet reports on the Departmental Transport Criteria for Adults as agreed by Brian O'Leary at last months meeting.</p>	

4.1 Access to Transport: was highlighted, in particular “there is undoubtedly a culture which has grown up over the years that there is an automatic right to transport to and from a service without an examination of the impact of the provision of that service in individual cases.

Appendix A about the proposed criteria for departmental transport for adult service users, policy and criteria was then discussed. - members are particularly concerned about policy a – d and criteria a – e

The Chair then presented Fair Access to Care Services.

2.3 – 2.7 then 3.2 and appendix 1 explaining the eligibility criteria including the risk to independence and well being if needs are not addressed. -members are particularly concerned about the removal of the “Low” criteria. The impact means that many older people will lose out on essential care

4.2 – 4-8 explaining that the review has been undertaken within the context of a potential budget deficit and the implication that it may not be possible to maintain the current local criteria embracing all four levels of the national framework, including the Domiciliary Care Service, Day Care, Direct Payments and Delivered Meals

5. 1 Financial implications – can be achieved by setting a threshold at band 3

Roy moved a motion that members write to their MPs and raise their concerns. This was accepted and was agreed by members

Members made the following observations/ suggestions:

- ◆ Direct Payments, Domiciliary Care and Delivered Meals will not exist therefore transportation will not be needed.
- ◆ Older people will have to rely on the voluntary sector for service provision
- ◆ No one really cares about older people
- ◆ This is not about older people it is all about money
- ◆ Older people are pushed backwards once again
- ◆ Older people are no longer valued if the low criteria is removed
- ◆ Older people are being used to resolve financial deficits yet resources are wasted elsewhere
- ◆ Older people should be treated better, there are 16m older people in this country and they have contributed towards the wealth of this nation
- ◆ Brian O’Leary should be invited back to present a simplified report to members
- ◆ A member of Parliament should be invited to speak on the Better Government for Older People because they are responsible for cutting resources to local government
- ◆ Invite Councillor Alan Smith the Older Peoples Champion to discuss the issues

Elizabeth suggested that list of questions should be drafted – need to

	<p>have a plan and also to know what is happening in other parts of the UK.</p> <p>Possibly two lists one to appreciate good services and one to consider what people would miss out on when certain services are removed</p> <p>Marjorie suggested that lists of questions could be sent to her home address before the next Management Meeting due to take place on 1 August 07</p> <p>There are concerns that people are going to be made unwell when services are removed.</p> <p>Dona Tooby – said no funding will be available for free learning and quality of life. Resources seems to be focused on worklessness and providing skills for the workforce</p> <p>All members invited to read the reports several times and submit their thoughts to the next meeting in August 2007 and make their voice heard, and or to Marjorie before the next Management meeting.</p>	
4.	<p>Treasurers Report No report</p>	
5.	<p>Correspondence No correspondence received</p>	
6.	<p>Sub Committee Reports Housing Pat said that she has requested information about the percentage of people paying full council tax from one of the Councillors without any success. Mike agreed to check previous minutes to and provide update at the next meeting about when the request was first made. Mike suggested that she request information via the Freedom of Information Act</p> <p>Pat also informed the group that a meeting was held with the Chief Executive of Wolverhampton Homes – Leslie Roberts and she agreed to look into the issues raised by this forum and gave a commitment to sent a representative to future meetings.</p>	
	<p>Transport David said he is having trouble securing rooms for meetings.</p> <p>He invited members to provide information about current concerns</p> <p>Members informed him of a number of bus signs that are missing or with incorrect information. David agreed to look into these.</p>	
	<p>Education Dona said that the consultation event had to be rescheduled to accommodate the Director (Mr. Mason) members will be kept informed of the new arrangements.</p> <p>The next Sub Group meeting will take place on Wednesday 25 July 07 at Old Hall Street</p>	

	<p>Health Marjorie would like to compile a dossier of people that have or are suffering hardship through a lack of services. Members to provide case study information</p>	
	<p>Any Other Business Mike informed members that Wolverhampton Homes is offering Induction Training at the Hickman Avenue Site David informed members that the nearest walk- in Health Centre - Phoenix Centre Parkfields is not on the NHS Direct system, and that people are misdirected to Walsall or Birmingham. This has been reported several times</p>	
	<p>Next Meeting: Wednesday 15th August 2007 Committee Room 3, Third Floor, Civic Centre</p> <p>Speakers Harm Gordjin – Falls Prevention Sandra Hollinshead – Crime prevention</p>	