



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

**Minutes of Over 50s Forum Wednesday**  
**21<sup>st</sup> March 2007, Britannia Hotel**

**Apologies:** J. Pursehouse, E.Grizzle, B.Davies, B. Sachdeva  
**Present:** 35 Members, Rose Powell

Item		Actions
1.	<p><b>Speakers – Gary Mack, Helen Rowney and Dave Taylor</b></p> <p>Gary spoke about the ongoing development of telecare and telemedicine, the funding for this service came from the preventative technology grant which gives each local authority money which should be used to reduce the need for residential and nursing care, increase choice and independence, reduce the burden on carers, reduce hospital admissions, reduce falls in the home, contribute to the care of people with long term conditions and help those who wish to die at home to do so with dignity.</p> <p>The service is delivered via the ambitious partnership of the Carelink and Telecare service. 95% referrals are over 65 although Telecare is open to all ages. Telecare uses a range of devices and alerts that connect to the Carelink system and consist of flood, smoke and gas detectors, fall alerts and various alerts for carers which either go directly to central control or to a panel in the house to alert the carer.</p> <p>Telemedicine is a new concept being piloted in 10 homes in Wolverhampton. It is a unit which can have peripheral equipment attached, the equipment can range from weighing scales to blood sugar monitors, all equipment can send data to a clinician down a computer line, anything outside of normal parameters can be responded to by a health or social care worker. Helen and Dave then gave a demonstration of the equipment.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of last months meeting</b> were agreed, proposed by Marjorie Wedge seconded by Roy Girdler</p>	
2	<p><b>Matters Arising</b>          Carbon monoxide monitors are also available from Help the Aged for £15.00</p>	

	<p>D.Gravestock – why are the Over 50s forum precluded from lobbying?</p> <p>Brad -The forum is an organisation that endeavours to help the older people get a better deal, not by marching, protesting or waving banners. There are numerous other groups that use this method of getting their ideas across. The Forum tries to work with government departments both national and local, using a different approach does work sometimes as our many successes will indicate.</p>	
3	<p><b>Chairman’s Remarks</b></p> <p>Are any members of the forum co-opted members of scrutiny panels?  Brad attended a meeting for the Councils CPA inspection (comprehensive performance assessment) and was asked questions as a co-opted member of scrutiny. He replied that he was not even aware that he was a co-opted member. David Plant is a co-opted member who sits on the adults and community scrutiny panel. It was suggested that the scrutiny manager should be invited to a future meeting.</p> <p>An article has been written for the Signpost newspaper pointing out the role that the Over 50s forum has played in the provision of the new toilets in the City Centre. This was in reply to a letter which appeared in the Express and Star which inadvertently implied that this was the Pensioners Convention.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Treasurers Report</b></p> <p>Forum has £1,158.90 in its account.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>Forum to Forum received and literature from Help the Aged</p>	
6.	<p><b>Sub Committee Reports</b>  <b>Health</b></p> <p>Marjorie highlighted two press cuttings taken from the Express and Star. She said these were very serious issues for older people, one was dealing with the cuts in transport and the fair access to care criteria which seem to have implications for the home care of older people. She said that she had raised this issue and was told that the decision had already been taken by the time it went to scrutiny panel. She is concerned that the new technology that has been demonstrated this morning is costing a huge amount of money which is being directed away from services .  Rose pointed out that Telecare and Telemedicine came from a completely separate grant. Forum thought that that situation may not continue and eventually may take money away from essential services. The increases in domiciliary care charges in the top band has gone up from £70.00 per week to £120.00 and at the lower end it has gone up from £7.50 to £31.20 it was felt that this is penalising older people It was suggested that the Head of Older Peoples Services – Brian O’Leary</p>	

	<p>should be invited to forum to discuss these changes, Mike Nicholls also suggested that people should talk to Councillors and members of the Cabinet about older peoples concerns and that Councillor Helen King and Councillor Docherty should be invited to forum as well.</p>	
	<p><b>Education Sub Committee</b></p> <p>A consultation event for the learning strategy is currently being planned. There is a petition on the No 10 website campaigning against the fees rise of 50% for adult learners. Dana also said that the LANAs are working on learning plans and we need to highlight older peoples learning issues to them to ensure that older learners are included in their plans.</p>	
	<p><b>Transport Sub Committee</b></p> <p>Traffic attendants become responsibility of City Council on 5 February 2007. A question was raised about whether wardens have the power to stop Ring and Ride waiting on yellow lines?</p> <p>David and the transport committee met with John Partridge to discuss the transport strategy, John told them that he was retiring and had ensured that the link would continue with the forum.</p>	
	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Crime Reduction Panel has personal alarms for sale for £1.50 see Brian Davies to purchase one.</p>	
	<p><b>Please note change of venue</b></p> <p><b>Venue: Committee Room 3, Civic Centre.</b>  <b>Date of next meeting Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2007, 10 am.</b>  <b>Speaker:</b></p>	