



WOLVERHAMPTON OVER 50s FORUM
Secretary: Mr. Roy Girdler
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Minutes of Over 50s Forum
Held on Wednesday 16 September 2009, 10am

Present: 38 members, Jean Fairclough (minutes), Rose Powell

Apologies: Brad Purshouse

Acting Chairperson: Marjorie Wedge

Marjorie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Anne Bailey, former Head of Commissioning, Older People was introduced and welcomed as a new member.

Steve Brotherton, the new Head of Commissioning Manager, Older People was also introduced and welcomed.

Speaker (1)

Andy Gudge, Area Manager, Independent Age, introduced himself. He explained to the Forum the aims of the organisation. Their aims are to keep thousands of people who live in their own homes, as independent as possible and out of poverty by providing them with practical support, financial help and lifelong friendship by filling the gaps that social services is unable to fill. They've got approximately 150 years of experience of doing this. This support is provided by local teams of volunteers, who are supported by a small number of staff across the UK and Ireland.

Andy stated that volunteers visitors are needed in Wolverhampton and Dudley, people can volunteer to whatever hours they are able to do as this is a flexible service. Volunteers will be trained, CRB checked, and travel expenses will be provided.

Roy Girdler commented favourably on the help and support he and his wife have received from the organisation and how this has benefited them greatly.

For more information about Independent Age, telephone **020 7605 4200** or write to them at: **Independent Age, 6 Avonmore Road, London, W14 8RL**, they can also be contacted at this email address: www.independentage.org.uk.

Speaker (2)

Santosh Kumari, Commissioning Officer, Older People, introduced herself and gave brief presentation of what the 'Every Adults Matters Strategy' entails. Santosh stated that the refreshed Adult Social Care 'Every Adults Matters' strategy seeks to build upon the work of the original produced in 2006. The initial strategy set out a clear direction of work, in response to the requirement of the White Paper 'Our Health Care, Our Say' It promoted values of independence, well being and choice for people who need to access Adult Social Care and Health Services. 'Every Adult Matters' (version 2) provides an updated framework for a number of Adult Social Care strategies and sets the commissioning framework for each of these strategies and the direction of work for the next three years.

Comments:

- There is a reluctance to seek or accept a dementia diagnosis in the early stages, people need to be educated to recognise the early stages and help them to accept it.
- At the moment you are undergoing severe cuts to budgets, this is a wonderful plan but how will you finance it?

Santosh: The plans are about doing things differently and re-providing services.

- For the first time older peoples numbers have overtaken younger people's does this strategy take that into account?

Santosh: We have the older people's strategy which addresses that.

- The country would grind to a halt without the voluntary sector.

Minutes of last meeting - Amendments

Housing Sub Committee Reports

Page 2, 2nd paragraph should read...**Pat however, stated that the meeting held on 4 August which was attended by Lesley Roberts, Chief Executive, Wolverhampton Homes, was less fruitful, (she's not a Councillor).**

AOB

Page 3 should read...**HOPE – A group made up of different organisations will be having an Information Event on Thursday 3rd September, 10:30 – 3:30, Gloucester Street, Community Centre, Gloucester Street, Whitmore Reans.**

Matters Arising

The meals on wheels service clarification still outstanding and Rose is chasing this up. Rose was asked to provide NHS parking booklets; she looked at a few but was unsure which one was needed.

Chairs Remarks

Chair not present

Treasurer's Report

Dave reported that the forum account balance is now standing at £1851.97, although part of it has been set aside for the environmental committee.

Correspondence

Department of Health stakeholder event taking place at Molineux Stadium, on Friday 27 November, 9:30 – 4pm, which will be dealing with heart disease or those who care for ones suffering from this condition. Those who are interested in attending this event can contact Debbie Spruce, on 01902 694416 for more details.

Environment Sub Committee

Meeting was held on Tuesday 15 September 2009, which was attended by environmental officers and parks department officers from the council. The forum has been invited to attend another British Waterways litter picking exercise in Bradley, date to be confirmed. Discussion took place within forum as to whether older people should be taking on litter picking which is essentially a council job. Forum was reminded that this initiative was about raising the forum profile as well as being environmentally friendly! Next environment meeting 20th October 10.30, Civic Centre.

- We need more bins in the city centre and surrounding areas.

Roy: We attended a meeting last week which included discussion about bins unfortunately they are very expensive to supply and in the present climate they are not seen as priority.

Housing Sub Committee

A meeting will take place on Friday in Briefing room 2 at 10.30 everyone is welcome to attend.

Any Other Business

Forum would be interested in hearing more about 'Putting People First' and Personalisation. Personalisation is great if you are eligible. We need to know what the guidelines are for the eligibility criteria (FACS – fair access to care services) How is the decision made and what the guidelines are. We need to ask officers to forum to explain this to us.

Eddie Grizzle: Putting people first: forms that have to be filled out can be very difficult, we need a conference on who is actually getting the service.

Jackie Hees: What happens to people who don't meet the criteria? A large number of people who need help will miss out, they may need help but won't be able to get it. This needs to be stopped the eligibility criteria is a disgrace.

Reg Jones Transport- travel passes are under threat and there is talk about them being means tested.

Marjorie Wedge: I don't have a travel pass as I cannot use public transport and I'm sure that there are many older people like me. There should be alternatives to the travel pass and older people should be allowed to claim the mobility allowance as once you are over the age of 65 you are unable to claim it.

Mike Nicholls: There are many different categories that people don't fall into but in my opinion Government should be looking at extending the travel pass system for all of the older people who wish to apply for it not means testing it.

Dana Tooby: Details of 'Pathfinder' training course. Take That is training to teach people about the decision making process. Contact Sam Axtell if you are interested in attending.

Also review of Age Discrimination is taking place; they are looking for older people who may have been affected by poor service In Wolverhampton. Contact Dana for more details.

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 21 October 2009, 10am, Meeting Room 3, Third Floor, Civic Centre.