

Penrith Forum – September 11th 2008

Attendees

11 people attended including residents, representatives of Cumbria County Council, Age Concern, Eden Carers and Impact Housing,

Presentation

As short presentation was given by Sue Edwards who explained the purpose of the Working Together strategy and

‘We would like to see a whole new concept of over 50’s forum’

‘Lifestyle issues’

‘Tackling issues of reaching 50 and early retirement.’

Workshops

Group 1: What do we want from our forum?

- Social gathering/activity, out of which or in context with ‘the business’ of the moment is discussed.
- An inclusive spectrum of issues to cover the 50+ group: e.g. child care and employment can be very much still an issue, as well as the more traditional ones of meals on wheels; O.T. etc.
- All proposals which the forum make should emphasize the rural nature of the majority of service users.
- Would wish the forum to be more than simply a social club/talking shop- it would need a ‘raison d’être’ and professional impact to drive issues. (Dichotomy of social v’s professional body so possibly a body modelled on the WI?)

What are the issues?

- Transport.
- No coordination of services – why aren’t there more mobile clinics for such a rural geography.
- Rural proofing is not ‘for real’.
- Lack of /diminishing local services
E.g. C.A.B, P.O., Pubs/Shops
Health outreach workers-CPN’S
-Dental.

Group 2: What are the issues?

Travel

- Rural Isolation
- Town Inclusive

- Times.-Meetings.-Pleasure.
- Cut services-Speed bumps.
- Expense.
- Disability excess- bus's, taxis.

Health Care

- Times. Lot of organising.
- Getting there.
- Parking time limits.
- Rest points-Town layout, seating.
- Ambulance services limited.
- Public toilets.

Housing

- Adapted housing.
- User friendly appliances, sockets, fuse boxes, accessible cut offs.
- Studio Housing!!-Health and safety.
- Warden issues- hours cut, change of roles and managers.
- Handy persons scheme, to allow independent living.
- Help and advice to stay in own home.

Future speakers/areas for discussion:

1. In Control Total – How will it Work? Can we influence any changes?
2. Cumbria Links – Health and how to influence decision makers.
3. Rural Proofing – what's happened?

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 24th November 12.30pm – 3pm. Light lunch will be available.