

South Lakeland Working Together Forum
Stonecross Manor Hotel, Kendal
11th July 2008

Minutes

Present

Julian Legat, Chair
Andy Woods, ASCD
Steve Pollard, South Lakeland Carers' Association
Tom Fraser, Carer
Rosemary Bennett, Carer
Jim Bradley, CMHG
Sarah Roberts, Carer/Link TSG
James Jason Wood
Susan Jason Wood
Mary Balchin
Helen Worton
Jean Worton
George C Thomlinson, Carer
Susan Edwards, Signposts
Brenda Shepherd (Minutes)

Apologies

Gwyneth Raymond, OPRSI
Stanley Raymond
Joan Simpson, Age Concern

Julian welcomed all present to the meeting, reminding everyone that these were open forums for people aged 50+ with an interest in social care issues, although with no obligation to attend every meeting; but members were encouraged to pass on invitations to anyone else who may be interested in attending

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The Minutes of 14th May 2008 were accepted as a correct record. Matters arising:

- 1.1 Eden and Carlisle Forums would be in place by September. The West has a mature forum, which amongst other Social Care and Health issues, is looking currently at digital switchover, the digital divide and post office closures. The West model works well and subject to the wishes of people in the South, Julian would wish for this to be replicated here.

Julian reiterated that whilst he was currently happy to chair South Lakeland's Working Together Forum, the intention was for all forums to become independent, acting as 'critical friends' to Adult Social Care, with whatever support is needed from Adult Social Care and Signposts.

He explained that the PPI (Public and Patient Information) forums had now been replaced by the Cumbria LINK, of which there is an interim version currently functioning. The LINKs remit includes scrutiny of both facilities and services provided by Adult Social care and Health, with the power to look at the whole pathway of patient care.

1.2 Dates for a consultation with Age Concern over charging for social care are still awaited, hinging on MPs availability.

Action: Julian to circulate information as soon as available.

2. Carers' Strategy

Julian introduced Steve Pollard from South Lakeland Carers' Association, in attendance to speak to a briefing paper (previously circulated) for discussions about what is important for carers in Cumbria. The Cumbria Strategy for carers (written 2004/05) is currently being updated and will align with national strategy, looking at how carers can be supported now and in the future.

Steve gave further details of their day-to-day work, which included developments such as:

- Counselling service – two fully qualified trainers in place with additional two in training.
- Weekly 'drop-in' centre; also monthly support groups.
- Relaxation therapy Very popular – used to capacity and hoping to extend.
- Social events and outings.
- Sitting and befriending service to allow carer to go out alone - now using volunteers when previously only staff were available.

In terms of updating Cumbria's strategy, attendees then split into two groups to identify any issues they wished to be included – which Steve and Andy Woods would collate for inclusion in the redraft.

Steve advised that the Carers' Association employed a Support Worker, based at Adult Social Care offices in Kendal, with the aim of keeping carers' issues in the forefront - which had shown a positive effect through increasing the numbers of referrals.

3. Signposts

Julian explained that Signposts' website (www.workingtogether.signposts.org.uk) was a central information point for all forums, to seek information/post own comments etc, re engagement and associated issues.

Action: Julian to circulate information re training sessions to be made available for relevant internet use.

4. Any Other Business

- 4.1 Details tabled re Age Concern's 'Celebrating Age' day at Shap Wells Hotel on Friday, 18th July, from 10 am. Varied programme of events, in which older people were invited to participate as fully as wished, for the whole or any part of the day.
- 4.2 Julian urged attendees to collect and submit expenses forms for reclaiming any costs incurred in attending meetings.

5. Next Meeting

Wednesday, 10th September, 12 – 2 pm, Stonecross Manor Hotel, Kendal.
Future dates to be arranged.

Members were asked to submit any agenda items they wished to be discussed at the next (September) meeting to Julian/Brenda (01539 713358 / brenda.shepherd@cumbriacc.gov.uk).