

**South Lakeland Working Together Forum
Shakespeare Centre, Highgate, Kendal
Wednesday, 11 March 2009 : 12 noon – 2 pm**

Minutes

Present

Julian Legat – Chair
Pam Beswick, Signposts
Susan Jason Wood
Gwyneth Raymond
Sarah Roberts
Becky Squires, Adult Social Care
John Maguire
Brenda Shepherd, Adult Social Care (Minutes)

Apologies

Sue Edwards, Signposts
Cllr John A Bateson, Kendal Town Council
Gertrude Bateson
Tom Fraser, Carer
James Jason Wood
Don Pearson
Stan Raymond

Julian welcomed everyone to the meeting, reiterating its aims and objectives which were to engage more effectively with the community.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of 14th January 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

- 2.1 Julian reminded members that a full printed copy of the 'Big Q' report was available on request (Minute 2).
- 2.2 'The Cumbria Deliberative Forums on Social Care' tabled will be circulated with these minutes, and included in next agenda.
- 2.3 Julian noted a strong and increasing commitment to engagement work for the future, following his discussions with the Director. (See also Minute 8 below.)

3. Signposts

Pam noted that the first year's 'Working Together' contract had now finished, and felt that Signposts had succeeded in its aim throughout the six countywide forums. She said they had engaged with a full mix of the community, including Black and Minority Ethnic groups, Travellers etc, particularly where separate forums were not appropriate using instead within an existing meeting place.

The intention now was to strengthen resources and consolidate existing links, reaching out into other areas – which fits well with Elbourne report – and work together with other national and local organisations.

Pam believed this to be an interesting period concerning older people's services and recognition of their needs; adding that people could be continually advised to use the media, local radio etc – as not everyone would attend a forum.

Action: Julian to seek long-term funding commitment, plus remit/relationships with other groups (Mental Health, Learning Disability etc).

4 In Control Total

Current (January and February) Newsletters previously circulated and tabled.

Julian reported that Cumbria fared well in comparison with other authorities regarding In Control Total and Direct Payments in terms of care provision, resource allocation etc.

Action: Julian to circulate statistics for next meeting.

5 Carers' Issues

Not yet possible to look at how carers are assessed.

Action: Julian to collate/circulate diary over 12 months, for advance information.

6. Better Government for Older People: Update Report – Noreen Haselden

Noreen absent on holiday.

Action: Julian to circulate any information received – anticipated shortly.

7. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Julian explained the above process by which Health and Adult Social Care plan future services through the following three elements:

- i) Existing services.
- ii) Demographic and epidemiological changes.
- iii) Engagement and consultation.

A demonstrator project was looking at disabled and older people's future housing needs, via 'Shaping Our Lives' organisation. Julian noted a good response from the consultation, and outlined attendance figures across the county.

Action: Julian to circulate summary of response.

Arising out of the above, discussion took place regarding the future of residential care for people with some degree of dementia, plus what the alternatives are. It was pointed out that, although pieces of information existed, it was not always possible to bring it together in a cohesive manner to best suit an individual enquirer at the time of need.

It was also suggested asking developers to tailor potential future building projects with support for the elderly who wish to remain in own area (to maintain family/ friendship networks etc).

Action: Julian to work towards clear signposting/develop as a wider item for discussion in next agenda.

8. John Elbourne: Response from Central Government

Julian noted that Cumbria's submitted response to the Elbourne report from the six countywide forums had been precisely in line with Government policy (which was a surprise vindication of Cumbria's intentions). He expanded on its Executive Summary (previously circulated), which was all positive.

Next steps awaited. Julian has ensured Government awareness of Cumbria's work via BGOP's David Halpin.

In parallel, a meeting of shire counties was to be held shortly in Shropshire, discussing in particular the engagement needs of rural counties. Peter Johnstone representing the Forum/s, and his feedback would be circulated in due course.

9. County Engagement Framework

Julian explained that an internal audit would be taking place shortly of all the different types of work being undertaken under the engagement framework. Report to follow in due course.

10. 'Not just grapes and flowers' – Gwyneth Raymond, OPRSI

Gwyneth spoke to the above paper (previously circulated), which outlined a service user project for North Lancashire Primary Care Trust, financed by a bursary from the Teaching PCT. This was an invitation to become involved in a project affecting people aged 50-plus, either as hospital patients or visitors, during the last year; and views were being sought on any issue that would improve the experience for the visitor and the patient.

Workshops with six-eight people were being arranged, aiming to discover ways in which any improvements/more Health monies might be obtained. Discussions will be recorded, and (whilst maintaining confidentiality) quotes may be made from what is said, and no individual names will be used in the report. Receipted travel expenses will be paid, plus £20 for out of pocket expenses.

Gwyneth noted that ethics' approval was still awaited, following which venues can be arranged and full information circulated; and Julian confirmed that SLWT Forum would be willing to support this project in any way possible, including hosting a workshop.

11. Chair Vacancy – South Lakeland Working Together Forum

Julian reiterated that the ultimate aim was for these forums to be self-running, with continued admin support from Adult Social Care. He invited any interested person to act as chairperson; other possibilities could be a 'revolving' and/or joint chairperson – all of which could be time-limited.

12. Any Other Business

- 12.1 The meeting queried how this forum linked with South Lakeland District Council's role around the housing needs of older people.

Action: Julian to explain the process at the next meeting.

- 12.2 The meeting suggested considering the relevance of agendas with a view to increasing attendance - perhaps including a 'theme'/presentation as a main topic for each meeting.

Action: Julian to draft/update flyer for members to use within their own publicity.

Arising out of above, it was suggested that South Lakeland District Council's Julie Jackson be invited to explain the process of accessing care/housing.

- 12.3 Mrs Jason Wood explained plans in her area for setting up a satellite forum in Craig Valley, which was warmly welcome by all.

- 12.4 John Maguire outlined Age Concern South Lakeland's plans to set up a 'village agents' scheme within which 23 co-ordinators would be employed initially for a few hours per week as a source of information and advice to address issues affecting older people, ie: focusing on social care and benefits advice. To be publicised in first instance via Age Concern's Newsletter in first

13. Next Meetings

Wednesdays, 12 – 2 pm, Stonecross Manor Hotel, Kendal:
13th May, 8th July, 9th September, 11th November.

Please note: venues will be available beyond the end of the formal meetings to enable 'networking', but two hours to remain the maximum duration of the formal meeting for the comfort of all attendees.