

Older Persons' Forum (West Cumbria)

STEERING GROUP MEETING

Held on Friday 15th September 2008 at 2pm to 4pm
At The Drop in Centre, Age Concern, Whitehaven.

Prior to the start of the Meeting, the Chair informed the meeting with regret that John Chakko had passed away unexpectedly. John had long been a member of the Forum and other voluntary organisations in West Cumbria and will be sorely missed. A few moments for quiet reflection were called for.

1. WELCOME: The Chair Ken Taylor welcomed everybody to the meeting including Margaret Crabtree from ADA for the first time.

2. PRESENT : Ken Taylor (Chair), Peter Johnstone (Secretary), Christine Johnstone (Treasurer) Margot Fox (Membership), Claire Dobson (Age Concern), Isobel Long, Clarice Nichol (West Cumbria Carers), Eva Elliott, Muriel Dinning Josie Graham, Barbara & Clive Monaghan, Lyn English & James Watkins (Cumbria Fire Service), Albert & Flo Studholme, Margaret Crabtree (Allerdale Disability Association)

3. APOLOGIES: , Pauline Atree, Julie McCaughey (Help the Aged), John & Dorothy Warbrick, J & P Bray, Jean Jones, Gwen Ellwood, Dorothy Barwise, Tom Hughes.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18th JULY 2008:

The minutes were agreed as a true and correct record and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING.

Further to the presentation made to the July Meeting regarding Direct Payments and Individual Budgets, the Secretary and Treasurer had attended a NW Older Peoples Forum Seminar in Preston Now lets talk Money and reported that the wider view and concerns were the same as ours. There is a fear of overspend and getting into debt, advice is not freely given the individual has to ask, and the fear of losing other benefits. It was agreed that the **Secretary contact the Dept. of Work and Pensions to ask for a presentation re Pension Credits and Direct Payments.**

The August meeting was held at CVS Maryport and took the form of a Summer Picnic supported by Help the Aged. A presentation was made about Cumbria Link. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event and the picnic went down well.

6. CHAIRS' REPORT:

Ken reported on the ongoing Digital Inclusion Project. The next meeting is in October. He will, with Margot, be attending a meeting on the 3/4 October which will take the form of a discussion group. Shropshire Conference report now available.

7. SECRETARYS' REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

- 1. Help the Aged is one of B&Q's charities of the year and have been invited to have a stand at their stores on the weekend of 13th/14th December for the opportunity to collect signatures for a petition to Gov't to improve access to social care, this is under a major Campaign Right Care, Right Deal. This is also an opportunity to promote our own Forum and maybe collect some funds. 8 members have agreed to man the stand that weekend. **Secretary to contact Help the Aged to register our interest and for further details.**
- 2. Following the Seminar in Preston the PowerPoint presentations are now available.
- 3. Press release from Help the Aged re survey about Older People and carers face Care cost confusion as the price of ageing spirals.

- 4. E mail from Sue Edwards, Signposts, about new website and funding from Working Together, Secretary contacted and is still waiting for a response. Next working together meeting 2nd October, Secretary and Treasurer will attend.
 - 5. Letter from Tony Cunningham 4.09.2008 enclosing response from Prime Minister re Age Discrimination.
 - 6. Information about latest scam by Car hijackers putting a piece of paper on back window causing people to get out of car at car parks leaving engine running. This is serious and is happening all over country. Advice is don't attempt to remove until back at home or safe to do so.
 - 7. Working Together conference "Empowerment for the Future" Friday 24th October at Penrith. 9 members have asked to attend. **Secretary to inform Adult and Social Care of numbers.**
 - 8. For information:- Audit Commission Report on Local Government regarding ageing.
 - 9. Pension Credits urge claims to be put in before 1st October if successful will be backdated for a full year. After this date only 3 months backdating.
 - 10. Holiday Travel Insurance new website www.EHICPLUS.com appears to have no upper age limit and is reasonable.
8. **TREASURER' REPORT:** Christine reported balances as at 115.09.08 of £1942.87 .The account from CVS re the Summer Picnic has not yet been received.
9. **MEMBERS REPORTS:**
- Membership:** Margot informed that there was no change, membership stood at 27.
- Age Concern:** Claire reported beware of e mails stating undelivered parcels if opened contain viruses. She informed the meeting about a Fashion Show being held at the St. Michaels Centre Workington 14.11.08 at 7pm. There are also Computer Taster sessions being held at Cockermouth 10am-2pm further details from Claire.
- Strokelink:** Next meeting at the Green Hut at Harrington on 25th September. Lyn English wondered if she could give a presentation. Contact name to be given to Lyn.
- BGOP/OPAG:** Christine reported that she had attended the meeting on the 28th July she was she was still no wiser but would continue to attend.
- Cumbria Fire Service:** Lyn introduced James Watkins one of the new volunteers raising awareness of home security. Beware of telephone calls attempting to sell security, and e mails supposedly from HM Revenue re tax refunds **do not open.**
- Maryport:** Outings have been arranged for Older People to Barrow.
- Wigton:** Isobel raised issues regarding Community Police it would appear they have all joined Cumbria Constabulary and there is no cover. Free swimming for over 60's is not available in Wigton. Gas main work on High Street is causing utter chaos.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** There was no other business.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

17th October 2008
at 2pm
at Allerdale Disability Association,
Curwen Park, Workington.

The meeting was then closed.