

Older Persons' Forum (West Cumbria)

STEERING GROUP MEETING

Held on Friday 18th July 2008 at 2pm to 4pm

At The Drop in Centre, Age Concern, Whitehaven.

1. **WELCOME:** The Chair Ken Taylor welcomed everybody to the meeting,
2. **PRESENT :** Ken Taylor (Chair), Peter Johnstone (Secretary), Margot Fox (Membership), John Chakko, Claire Dobson & Sarah Fee (Age Concern), Isobel Long, Clarice Nichol & Dot Barwise (West Cumbria Carers), John Warbrick (Vice Chair), Eva Elliott, Josie Graham, Jean Jones, Gwen Ellwood, Barbara & Clive Monaghan, Ralph Waterhouse, J Boggett (Visitor), Lyn Craig (DACE Speaker)
3. **APOLOGIES:** , Pauline Atree, Albert and Flo Studholme, Julie McCaughey (Help the Aged), Dorothy Warbrick, Lyn English. Christine Johnstone, Muriel Dinning.

A presentation was made by Lyn Craig regarding Direct Payments which is part of Individual Budgets and In Control. This system of payments for Care Services is designed to put peoples' care in their own hands and is based on a Social Workers assessment of care needed giving an individual Care Budget. It has many advantages as well as drawbacks and concerns. The ability to control where, when, and how the care is delivered is of obvious benefit, but the present procedures and criteria give cause for concern. At present, a spouse or other carer who lives under the same roof cannot be paid for giving care. A separate bank account is required to control monies in and out and an accounting procedure must be followed. National Insurance and employers liability insurance has to be paid. At present there are some 947 people using Direct Payments, this is increasing year on year. After questions the Chair thanked Lyn Craig who then left the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16TH MAY 2008:

After corrections and omissions, the minutes were agreed as a true and correct record and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING.

1. Secretary had contacted CCC re Bus Service 30. The service had been increased to every 15 mins between Maryport and Whitehaven and reduced to 30mins to Thornhill. He had received other information about subsidised routes which is available to members.
2. Information sent to Cumbria CVS.
3. Speaker from CVS arranged for August Meeting.
4. Article sent to Seniors Magazine.

6. CHAIRS' REPORT:

Ken reported on the Digital Inclusion Project. He attended a meeting along with Claire Dobson hosted by Age Concern. The use of Computers, Mobile phones and other means of data transfer can cause distress and concern to older persons. The aim of the project is to allay these fears improve digital and technical awareness and improve access to these modern methods. Further meetings are to be held and will be reported on.

7. SECRETARYS' REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1. The Secretary thanked Age Concern on behalf of members for the invitations to their 30years celebrations event and for the recognition given to members for their efforts on behalf older persons and the awarding of Older Persons Champions and volunteer Certificates.
- 2. Help the aged campaign against lack of age discrimination inclusion in Equalities Bill. Secretary in support of the campaign, had sent letters to MPs, and Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Replies had been received and the National Campaign proved successful and it was announced that Age Discrimination will be included in the Bill.

- 3. Response to letter sent to Jamie Reed MP February 2008 re communication of information by Computer reply received 11th June 2008 with accompanying response from Government.
 - 4. Age Concern Keswick raised and issue re Gas Supply to some houses. It was agreed that we take no action and it was handed to Claire to pursue.
 - 5. Copy of article sent to Seniors Magazine also sent to Solway Buzz, Egremont Today, and Flimby Pheonix.
 - 6. Acknowledgement of £100.00 grant from Help the Aged towards a Summer Event. It was agreed that the Chair and Secretary look into venue and format.
 - 7. Darzi review of the NHS; next steps questionnaire on web site to be completed by 31.08.2008 website/ e mail healthierhorizons@northwest.nhs.uk
 - 8. North West Older Peoples Forum Seminar on Now lets talk Money 30.07.2008 including session on Direct Payments Sec. and Treas. Attending and will report back.
8. **TREASURER' REPORT:** In the absence of Christine, the Secretary reported balances as at 30.06.08 of £2073.99 this included £100.00 from Help the Aged.

9. **MEMBERS REPORTS:**

Membership. Margot informed that there were no new members, membership stood at 27.

Age Concern, Claire presented a possible update of our brochure and again was thanked for our invitations to the Celebration Event.

Strokelink, Next meeting at the Green Hut at Harrington on 31st July.

BGOP/OPAG Christine reported that she had attended the meeting on the 27th May she was confused as to the format of the meeting as no minutes were produced. She will be attending the next meeting on the 28th July and hoped to be more positive in her report.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** J. Warbrick informed about the Post Office Credit Card which can be used abroad without charge for purchases. He also brought to attention a questionnaire re How We Pay for Support nationally website: careandsupport.direct.gov.uk questionnaire on site.

Chair informed that it was possible to cap your fuel charges for a year, ask supplier.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

15th August 2008
at 2pm
at Cumbria CVS, Selby Street,
Maryport

The meeting was then closed.