

Older Persons' Forum (West Cumbria)

STEERING GROUP MEETING

Held on Friday 18th September at 2pm to 4pm

At Age Concern, Old Customs House, Whitehaven.

1. **WELCOME:** The Chair Ken Taylor welcomed all to meeting
2. **PRESENT :** Ken Taylor (Chair), Peter Johnstone (Secretary), Christine Johnstone (Treasurer), Margot Fox (Membership), Muriel Dinning, Eva Elliott, Dot Barwise & Clarice Nichol (West Cumbria Carers), Josie Graham, Betty Robertson, Isobel Long, Wendy Cocks (Care and Repair England).
3. **APOLOGIES:** , Pauline Atree, D. Thompson (Police), Barbara & Clive Monaghan, Claire Dobson (Age Concern), Lyn English (Fire Service), Gwen Ellwood, Jean Jones, Albert & Flo Studholme.

At this point Wendy Cocks (Housing Action Officer) gave a presentation about Care and Repair England. She gave a thorough briefing on Housing Policy from Central Govt. down to Local Govt. including National bodies responsible for delivery of various aspects. Home and Communities agency has £367m for 2008-2011 for supported housing and housing for older people, unable to find out funding from Dept of Communities and Local Govt, Dept of Health has £80m for 2008-2010 for extra care housing, and there are Private Retirement Developments. 90% of Older people live in the general housing stock, 5% in sheltered housing and 5% in residential or nursing homes. 68% of householders aged 65+ own their homes in 2007, over 60s had £932 billion of equity in their homes in 2004, 30% of all households are headed by someone over 60, and people over 75 are most likely to live in non-decent homes. In Cumbria 1 in 7 live in a residential establishment. The govt strategy launched February 2008, "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods", a National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society, is and will be subject to the economic turndown. Grants for adaptations (Disability Facilities Grant) which is mandatory is upto £30,000.00 is means tested and the average waiting time in Cumbria (2005/06) was 44 weeks against the target of 33 weeks. There is good advice available re equity release. In Cumbria the Disabled Facilities grant Pilot relaxed rules around financing 2008/09 expenditure £5.8 million allocation in 2008/09 £1.8million. Fuel Poverty rates of upto 25% in some districts. Handyperson Funding in Cumbria budget of £150,000 (2009/10) does not appear to have been spent yet in year 2 (2011/12) funding £220,000. Who administers this and where is it? Homeshare is also being piloted again by who? The general feeling of the meeting was that yet again there is not enough support for the private sector unless on benefit. **Secretary to investigate.** The Chair then thanked Wendy and asked her to stay for the rest of the meeting.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 17th July 2009:**

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

5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

Copeland Healthy Communities Review The review was now available and the secretary had queried some of the facts and was waiting response. Other matters on agenda.

6. **CHAIRS' REPORT:** He accompanied by Margot had attended an interview panel for Social Care.

7. **SECRETARYS' REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.**

Secretary reported on the visit he and Christine had made to the Barrow and Furness Pensioners Association on the 14th September. He had been given the opportunity to address the meeting and welcomed the contact made and hoped that it would prove beneficial. We have common issues and concerns and can now easily share information and hopefully not overlap our actions and therefore speak with a stronger voice.

- Confirmation received from Adult Social Care and the Acute Trust (Hospitals) about cost of food. No response again from Cumbria PCT or Cumbria Partnership (Mental Health).

Secretary to contact again.

- Letter from Analeize Love, Carers Federation, confirming attendance at October 16th meeting

- Letter from Tony Cunningham MP enclosing reponse to EDM 458 Equality Bill and Age Discrimination.
- Letter from Dorothy Warbrick unable to continue with Forum.
- Notice of Purse thefts received from Lyn English. This was circulated throughout our network and beyond
- E Mail to Keith Parker re anomalies in facts in Idea Review.
- Registration documents for Community Transport.
- E Mail from Margie Arts Secretary Barrow and Furness Pensioners Association making contact.
- Letter from Cumbria in Control User Involvement Consortium. **Secretary to investigate.**

8. TREASURER' REPORT: No change still solvent.

9. MEMBERS REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP: No new members.

AGE CONCERN: No report

HELP THE AGED: No report.

FIRE AND RESCUE: No report

WEST CUMBRIA CARERS: Clarice had attended Dementia Strategy Work Stream Meetings but felt they were confusing and lacked input from Health. Dot reported that a new member of staff had been appointed as Volunteer coordinator.

WIGTON: Isobel reported that the condition of some of the streets was poor and that Housing renovation was taking place.

MARYPORT: Josie reported that renovation of houses was taking place in Ewanrigg.

U3A: Muriel reported that they had been addressed about eye problems and there was help available.

BGOP: Christine reported that the July meeting was cancelled and that the September 24th Meeting was being held in Manchester and it was impossible for her to attend because of train times. She had sent emails to Jonathan Legat and to the Chair about the isolation this caused for West Cumbria. This will be reported to the next Working Together group.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

16th October 2009

To be held at St Michaels Centre, Workington

The Chair then closed the meeting.