

Older Persons' Forum (West Cumbria)

STEERING GROUP MEETING

Held on Friday 20th March 2009 at 2pm to 4pm

At De Lucy Centre Age Concern, Egremont

- 1. WELCOME:** The Chair Ken Taylor welcomed everybody to the meeting especially the Speaker Andea Smith Supporting People Adult Social Care.
- 2. PRESENT :** Ken Taylor (Chair), Peter Johnstone (Secretary), Christine Johnstone (Treasurer), Margot Fox (Membership), Eva Elliott, Muriel Dinning, Gwen Ellwood, Betty Robertson, Clive & Barbara Monaghan, Dot Barwise & C. Kelly (West Cumbria Carers). Andrea Smith (Speaker) Pat Williamson (Signposts) arrived later.
- 3. APOLOGIES:** , Pauline Atree, Julie McCaughey (Help the Aged), Helen Spencer, D. Thompson, Isobel Long, John & Dorothy Warbrick, , Margaret Crabtree (ADA), Claire Dobson (Age Concern), Jack & Peggy Bray, Clarice Nichol (West Cumbria Carers).

Andrea Smith gave a presentation about "Supporting People" the aim is to give grants to help people to access support services without moving into specialist housing, maintain or develop stable lives within the community, and avoid entry to or enable exit from more formal institutional care and support. Concerns were raised again about this only funding service for people living in Social Housing with housing and other related benefits and not people in the private sector or with income just above allowance level. The funding available for the scheme is £1.8 billion nationally, £10.4 million for Cumbria of which £1.9 million is for Older People. The number of units supported in Allerdale and Copeland 2711, These are 68 living in bungalows with community alarms, 535 warden controlled, 1878 with community alarms, 10 with Age Concern befriending service, 177 with visiting support, and 43 Abbeyfield schemes. It was noted that this appears to be another duplication of bureaucracy, there are already the Pensions service, Adult Social Care, Supporting People, Housing providers all of which can cause confusion among older people, can be inefficient and costly to provide the required services again adding weight to the "One Stop Shop". It was agreed that the Secretary to write to Barbara Cannon, Chair County Commissioning Body to advise her of the Forum's concerns, and to take these concerns to the Working Together Group on 2nd April. The Chair thanked Andrea for her presentation and asked her to stay for the rest of the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 20th March 2009:

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

5. MATTERS ARISING:

None not covered by reports.

6. CHAIRS' REPORT: Nothing to report.

7. SECRETARYS' REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

Secretary had forwarded the Food surveys individually by email.

It was decided that due to transport difficulties, that the Secretary would try to arrange the St. Michaels Centre Workington for the AGM and ask for a small buffet to be provided.

Secretary to contact Claire Dobson.

1. Letter from Peggy Bray advising her retirement from the Forum.
2. Notice from Help the Aged re ONE Voice Conference 7th April 2009 London.
3. Letter from T. Cunningham MP re Equality Bill and Age Discrimination enclosing acknowledgement from Vera Baird QC MP full response to follow.
4. Flyer for FIT4LIFE .
5. For info Cumbria CVS News MJarch/April 09.

6. Letter to Joan Bakewell introducing the Forum to her in her position as Older Persons Champion.
7. For info Agenda for AGM of North west Older Persons' Forum in Preston. Not attendance sent to Chair.
8. Letter from Jamie Reed MP enclosing response re Equality in Health and Social Care from Phil Hope MP.

8. **TREASURER' REPORT:** Christine reported balances still healthy.

9. **MEMBERS REPORTS:**

MEMBERSHIP: No change Margot reminded members that subs will be due at the AGM

STROKELINK: The new advert on TV regarding action to take if a stroke was suspected FAST was very good. More adverts had been recently released. The next meeting at Harrington will have a demonstration of Dog Handling.

BGOP/OPAG: Christine reported that the organisation ceases at the end of March as yet details of its replacement are unknown.

SIGNPOSTS: Pat Williamson reported that the development of Older Persons Forums was continuing there is now 6 Forums across Cumbria.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Eva Elliott was concerned about the state of the Paving outside the Civic Hall and had raised the issue with Phill Sutton the Manager but was not satisfied with the action taken Secretary to investigate.

Secretary raised the issue of the quality of food in hospitals and care homes which had been brought to notice by Helen Spencer. It was decided to write to the Chief Executives of the Health Care Trusts requesting information about the budgets allowed for food. **Secretary to investigate.**

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

24th April 2009

at 2pm

at Age Concern, St Michaels Centre, Workington

The Chair then closed the meeting.