

Older Persons' Forum (West Cumbria)

STEERING GROUP MEETING

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PARTY

Held on Friday 16th January 2009 at 2pm to 4pm

At Age Concern, St. Michaels Centre, Workington

1. **WELCOME:** The Chair Ken Taylor welcomed everybody to our Christmas /New Year Party Courtesy of Help the Aged and supplied through Age Concern.

2. **PRESENT :** Ken Taylor (Chair), Peter Johnstone (Secretary), Christine Johnstone (Treasurer) Margot Fox (Membership), Claire Dobson (Age Concern), Eva Elliott, Muriel Dinning, Margaret Crabtree (Allerdale Disability Association), Gwen Ellwood, John & Dorothy Warbrick, Dot Barwise and Clarice Nichol (West Cumbria Carers), Lyn English (Fire and Rescue Service), Betty Robertson, Harold Lingard, Josie Graham, Isobel Long.

3. **APOLOGIES:** , Pauline Atree, Julie McCaughey (Help the Aged), Tom Hughes, Helen Spencer, D. Thompson, Albert & Flo Studholme, J. Ditchburn

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2008:

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

The Secretary informed the meeting that they had been asked by Adult Social and Cultural Services Research and Governance to review a Survey "Your views on equipment and adaptations provided by Cumbria Social Care to support you to live in your own home" This was circulated and discussed during the buffet.

The main points of concern related to questions in Section 2 "About Yourself" especially 22, 23, 24, relating to, race, sexual orientation, and religion felt these questions should be optional. The methodology of sending surveys by post and expecting 40-50% return was unrealistic, and the length (14 pages) far too long. It was felt that the results gathered would be skewed by low return.

Other points raised were the system relating to supply. In non urgent cases from occupation therapy to assessment could take up to 98 weeks. The route to supply from Hospital via occupational therapy is alright, GP referral not good. There appears to be a lack of resource. There are other agencies both supplying assessments and some adaptations. Secretary would forward on these concerns.

5. MATTERS ARISING:

1. Presentation by Rural Wheels - ongoing

6. **CHAIRS' REPORT:** Nothing to report.

7. SECRETARYS' REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

- 1. Email from Help the Aged re calls for research as well as good diagnosis of Dementia
- 2. E Mail from Help the Aged re advice for older people on keeping warm in Winter.
- 3. Letter enclosing £100.00 for Party responded to by email 15.12.08. **Secretary to send thanks to Julie McCaughey.**
- 4. December 08 mailing from Help the Aged enclosing Forum to Forum Dec08-Jan09 and evaluation report on National Falls awareness Day 24-06-08.
- 5. Cumbria CVS news Nov/Dec08 and Jan/Feb09.
- 6. Cumbria Response to Review of Older People's Engagement with Government. This response contained our Forum's comments.

8. **TREASURER' REPORT:** Christine reported that we had received the £500.00 grant from Adult Social Care Working Together and also the £100.00 from Help the Aged for our Party, and that we were within budget.
9. **MEMBERS REPORTS:**
MEMBERSHIP: No change
AGE CONCERN: Claire reported that she had been seconded to work from Penrith for 6mths relating to Digital introduction, but would still be our contact.
STROKELINK: Christmas Party 1st December had taken place. The consultant is going to GPs to seek training for receptionists to recognise symptoms of stroke.
BGOP/OPAG: The meeting on the 20th January 2009 had been cancelled and rescheduled for 24th February.
ADA: Margaret reported new Shop Mobility Scheme was working well and was very busy.
CRIME PREVENTION: D. Thompson had sent an email regarding doorstep calling about house services advice from Police and Trading Standards do not employ.
FIRE AND RESCUE: Nothing to report.
10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Secretary advised members of the dates and venues up to April
20th February – Age Concern, Whitehaven- Speaker Tom Hendrie, Adult Social Care.
20th March – Age Concern, Egremont.
24th April – AGM – possible venue in Keswick
11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

20th February 2009
at 2pm
at Old Customs House, Age Concern, Whitehaven.

The Chair thanked Claire for organising the Buffet which was excellent and for arranging the buffet.

The meeting was then closed.