

The Southampton Later Years Partnership

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 21st September 2004

Present: Andrew Mortimore (Chair) PCT, Cllr Ann Milton, Charlie Hislop, Chris Hawker, Chris Martin, Mike Campbell, John Bridge, SCC; Susan Hird PCT; Ken Ball, Simon Burton, 3rd Age Centre; Eileen Jefferey, U3A; Sandra Smith, Age Concern; Julia Curtis, Hampshire Police; Richard Day, the Pensions Service; Jill Abrahams, Gwyn Owen, St. John's Ambulance; Anna Read, Staying Put.

Apologies : John Beer, Cllr Holden-Brown, Heather Christensen, Ian Gove, Julia Mason, Dawn Parker, Joan Winter.

1. *Minutes and matters arising*

The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting held on the 1st June.

- 1) The amended partnership agreement was adopted, but will be subject to review in future, as the Partnership develops. Partners are invited to contribute ideas towards the 'vision' appendix.
- 2) Age Concern has not yet heard whether its bid under the DWP Partnership Fund is successful.
- 3) A date for a presentation to the Southampton Partnership has not yet been set.

2. *Partnership Co-ordinator's report*

Charlie Hislop pointed out that the Co-ordinator's report would be a standard item, and that in future he would invite partners to submit items for the agenda. Arising from the report:

(4.) Inter-generational activity. Partners described a number of inter-generational projects that they run, and which can be used in promoting an inter-generational programme with the Children and Young Persons Strategic Partnership.

(5.) Concessionary fares. Arising from Cllr. Holden-Brown's initiative, there was discussion about the value of the council's concessionary fares scheme. Charlie Hislop will explore the issue further with council officers, and the Partnership will discuss it at the next meeting in December. It was agreed that the Partnership should seek to ensure that the funding is retained for helping older people get around, even if the current scheme is not working well.

Partners briefly discussed the importance of community car schemes, the greater flexibility of tokens rather than bus passes, and the importance of working with Neighbourhood Partnerships to develop local schemes. The need for transport links with the Third Age Centre, and the requirement for St John's volunteers to pay toll charges were also raised.

- (). Older learning programmes John Bridge reported on developments in adult learning, and on progress in identifying the 3rd Age Centre as a key partner in managing the delivery of learning programmes for older people in the City. This was recognised as a major 'win' for the Partnership's approach.

3. *'Invest to save' budget bid - primary falls prevention*

Charlie Hislop outlined the bid that a number of partners have developed and submitted to the Treasury under the ISB programme, aimed at preventing falls at home and improving fitness levels through the development of senior health monitors. It is based on the principle of sharing the job of 'looking out for' older people in the community, and the public sector taking a lead in that role. It was noted that if the bid is unsuccessful, partners will need to look at alternative ways of introducing the initiative.

If the bid passes Stage 1, further work will be done to develop this project in the new year. The Partnership endorsed the bid.

4. *DWP: Link-Age - proposals for a network of services*

Partners discussed the DWP's proposals and while the importance of improving services was noted, there was some scepticism expressed about aspects of the proposals. The Government is planning to launch a strategy on ageing shortly and this document is a fore-runner of that. It was noted that individual partners might want to make submissions.

Partners raised some concerns about whether older people would benefit from the proposals, or whether they were more for the benefit of service management. There was significant concern about the undermining of peoples' independence, and the extent to which the transfer of information about individuals between agencies was warranted or wanted, although it was agreed that better co-ordination and access would be of benefit. It was noted that the proposals had previously been called '3rd Age Service', as if an all embracing service was thought applicable for older people and there were concerns about some of the phrasing, such as older people "*entering the system*". The lack of clarity in the report about whether the proposals related to specific services or improvements in generic services was noted.

It was agreed that the Partnership would submit a response, and that Charlie would prepare one based on the discussion and circulate it for comments.

5. *The City Council 'Medium Term Plan' - the 'city for older persons' chapter.*

Chris Hawker introduced the circulated paper, and explained that it set out the issues for the plan to cover in terms of older people. It was noted that the inclusion of a chapter in the plan was significant, given that the Southampton Partnership's Community Strategy had omitted any focus on older people. It was agreed to keep the Partnership informed on the progress of this work.

6. *Meeting the needs of older Asian people*

A proposal from the City Council for an active research project to ensure that the city is offering a good quality of life for older Asians was discussed and endorsed. The PCT and the 3rd Age Centre expressed an interest in being involved in the project, which is currently being planned.

7. *Any other business and news round up*

1) John Bridge proposed that the Partnership should look at promoting a high profile festival in the city, joining up a number of current activities together and taking advantage of the higher education vacations. It was agreed that Charlie would organise a meeting.

2) Andrew Mortimore reported that the Later Years Health and Wellbeing Strategy had been finalised, and that a small group from the Council and the PCT was going to be co-ordinating initiatives to implement it. He also commended it as a good source of data. He informed the Partners that Dr Jo Nurse who had drawn it up was leaving the PCT. He also advised that the PCT was currently developing its 3 year plan and would be sharing it with the Partnership in the near future.

***Next Meeting:- Tuesday 14th December, 2.30pm.
Millennium 3rd Age Centre***