

Later Years Partnership

Partnership Co-ordinator's report

Tuesday, 3rd June 2008

a) *Cities in Balance EU bid*

The bid has been resubmitted under the INTERREG Ivb scheme, by virtually the same partnership of cities, taking account of the funding committee's advice, which means that some partners' housing elements have been dropped, and there has been a greater focus on seniors' involvement by some partners. The overall project is considerably smaller.

If the bid is successful, in Southampton it will fund:-

- The 'SIGN' project – a project hosted by the Council, but with a multi-agency steering group including experts from Southampton University Centre for Research on Ageing to support and develop inter-generational activities and projects in the city.
- A one year post hosted by Age Concern Southampton to develop and strengthen the Seniors Council.
- A six month 'action research' project to assess the feasibility and develop volunteering and 'time-banking'.

The project will provide a great deal of opportunity to learn from developments in other cities, and the final conference would be held in Southampton in 2011. The outcome of the bid will be known in July.

b) *The Voting Age conference*

This took place at the Holiday Inn on 21st May, and was attended by about fifty seniors. As reported previously, the national Comic Relief funded project is to develop an older persons manifesto ready for the party conference season, and before the next general election.

Without any 'expert' speakers, people worked together in table groups, and the discussion ranged over public services, equality and age discrimination, and funding for care. The feedback from those participating was very positive, and the outcome of the discussions will be available in due course.

c) *www.southamptonlateryears.org*

The Partnership web-site is now live, and the first section to be launched is the 'business area' with other parts due to be added over the summer, including a regular news briefing. The PCT hosts the site for the Partnership, and in a few weeks the partnership site will have its own design and template, once the PCT re-design is complete.

d) *The Later Years team*

The council's Later Years team is currently recruiting to three posts that will strengthen the working of the partnership:-

- An Information Officer, who's role will be to improve access and availability of information, co-ordinate many of the sources of information that already exist, and improve distribution.
- A Home Safety Co-ordinator to carry out the work scoped by the Partnership Sub-Group last year.
- An Admin Assistant who will work part time specifically to support the Seniors Council.

Charlie Hislop

Later Years Partnership Co-ordinator