

NORTHANTS 50+ NETWORK

Annual Report

June 2012



Foreword

I am honoured to present our third Annual Report.

I wish to thank your Officers, Board Members and Activity Coordinators for all their efforts for Northants 50+ Network.

The 50+ Network is going through a time of significant change only three years after it started. The financial crisis has led Northamptonshire County Council to decide to withdraw support from the 50+ Network, an organisation which NCC had effectively created.

Our facilitator, Pam Wilton, retired in April 2012 and we are missing her. She has been the key driver for the Network from the beginning and has contributed greatly to its success. Her enthusiasm, reliability and energy are unmatched. We are all very grateful to her for all that she has done for the Network.

It appeared when NCC published its budget proposals in November that all support for the 50+ Network would cease in March 2012. After the 50+ Network Board made representations during the budget consultation, it was decided to continue support at a reduced level until March 2013. The Board is currently negotiating with NCC about arrangements to secure professional help during 2012/13 both for the Board in raising funds and for the activity coordinators in expanding the range of activities.

The Board remains committed to continuing the 50+ Network but recognises that it will be difficult to gain financial support when many other voluntary and charitable bodies are also losing support from the taxpayers.

John Roberts

Chairman

Contents

Aims and Objectives	4
Ensuring our work delivers our aims	4
Governance and Management	5
Who used and benefited from our services?	5
Consultation and Engagement	6
Website	6
Activities	7
Newsletter	7
Older People's Forums	7
Financial Report	8

Northants 50+ Network Annual Report

Our Aims and Objectives

Our aims and objectives are set out in our constitution and are:

To enable over 50s to:-

- Have a voice and be listened to through consultation and engagement opportunities
- Influence statutory organisations, public bodies and voluntary sector organisations on how their services are developed and delivered and be engaged in creating opportunities for change
- Participate in local, county, regional, national and international initiatives for older people
- To share information both within the organisation and within the community
- Encourage the development of new activities in areas where activities are not provided
- Promote and encourage participation in activities
- To challenge age discrimination

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

To ensure that we deliver our aims, the Board approved a business plan for the period up to December 2012 and has reviewed it regularly to see if we have made progress and achieved the things we set out to do.

What we set out to do

We set ourselves goals as follows:

Activities

1. Increase the number of activity co-ordinators and the number of places where activities are offered.
2. Identify and spread good practice in providing activities.

Influence

3. Engage with the implementation of NHS reforms.
4. Engage with the implementation of NCC Prevention Strategy.
5. Respond to all consultations on matters affecting the quality of life of people over 50.

Voice

6. Take action to ensure that Forums for over 50s meet in all seven districts of Northamptonshire and communicate with the Board so that opinions from people throughout the County can be voiced.
7. Increase the individual membership of the Network by 25% (from 2112 to 2765) by 31.12. 2012.

Funding

8. Secure adequate income to enable the Network to continue to function.

Who used and benefited from our services?

Our members are our beneficiaries and we have 2265 in total. The geographical split is as follows, with last year's figures shown in brackets:

Corby	236 (235)
Daventry	354 (296)
East Northants	375 (367)
Kettering	160 (166)
Northampton	565 (455)
South Northants	278 (279)
Wellingborough	259 (251)
Groups	34 (40) (with 1710 (1500) further members)
Out of County	4 (5)
Total	2265 (2094)

Group membership means that information we send out gets to more people; we understand our groups to have up to 1710 members who share the information.

Governance and Management

The Board is made up of 11 volunteers from around the County who link to a variety of different groups, offering information and experience on older people's issues. The Board is chaired by John Roberts. Tony Allen is Vice-Chairman, Brian Cully is Treasurer and Pamela Tomalin is Secretary. It has been supported by people from other organisations including, Susan Hills Older People's Champion NHS Northamptonshire, Councillor Eileen Higgins, Sonja Noon, Service Development Manager NCC, Pam Wilton Network Facilitator NCC, Gillian Powell, Age UK Northamptonshire and Judy Sullivan, NCVA.

Activity Coordinators

There are 8 volunteer Activity Coordinators who have been supported by the Network Facilitator, Pam Wilton, working with them to agree and organise local events for members. They have all worked tremendously hard this year providing even more opportunities for members to enjoy themselves and extend their social contacts.

Consultation and Engagement

Since June 2011 the Network has been involved as follows.

- **Northamptonshire County Council Prevention Strategy**
We provided a representative on the Interim Customer Forum and met with Council officers to consider and advise on the details of the strategy and its implementation. Individual Board members also attended public consultation events.
- **Northamptonshire County Council Budget**
We provided a formal response to the Budget proposals setting out our view that the cuts in spending on adult social care and prevention services would have a serious impact on the quality of life of over 50s.
- **NHS Reforms**
We are monitoring the development of Nene Commissioning and Corby Healthcare, the GP consortia who will have responsibility for commissioning services throughout Northamptonshire.
- **NCC Financial Appointees and Deputies**

We met with Council officers to hear and advise on proposals for changes to this service for people unable to manage their own finances.

Website

Following its launch last year, the website continues to develop under the leadership of our Vice-Chairman, Tony Allen.

Information about activities, useful contacts, forums, events, news and views can all be found on the website. Copies of past and current newsletters together with minutes of board meetings can also be accessed.

New members can join by completing an on-line application form and all members have password access to the 'Members Area'.

Activities

The Network organised, with Daventry Over Fifties, a roadshow in Moulton in September 2011 and, with Richmond Villages a roadshow in Brigstock in April 2012. Further roadshows are planned for July and September. The roadshows provide lots of information and fun. Our activity coordinators also arranged a wide variety of activities in Northampton, Wellingborough, Corby and Thrapston, including coffee mornings, dances, games sessions and visits.

Newsletter

The Network currently produces a quarterly newsletter which is distributed to the members and affiliated organisations. With over 2000 members the newsletter reaches a wide audience, with lots of members using it to keep up to date and book onto activities and partner organisation events.

Groups from across the County send in articles and information of interest to members, providing lots of opportunities for members to join in.

Councils and County Council also submit information regarding events at the local libraries, country parks and centres offering health walks, specialist talks and events.

Editing the Newsletter has usually been done by NCC officers but now we need to find willing volunteers to do this, or the money to pay someone.

Older People's Forums

The Board continues to seek to develop stronger links with independent Older People's Forums throughout Northamptonshire, but most of these share an uncertain future as a result of changes in NHS and local council funding.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Financial Review

50+Network
Annual Statement of Accounts
(June 19th 2011 – May 31st 2012)

	£
<u>BOARD ACCOUNT</u> (As at 19 th June 2011)	5,389.78
 <u>Income</u>	
NCC re Printing costs	1,689.90
Northampton Volunteering Centre	83.05
SERVE	150.00
 <u>Expenditure</u>	
In House Media	184.80
AC Print – Newsletter	1,388.28
Nordis Signs – Badges	92.99
Members Expenses	1,396.87
Purchase of Voice recorder & Stereo Headset	148.80
AON Insurance	351.73
Weston Favell Parish Hall	210.00
 Balance held at Bank as at 31st May 2012	 3,539.26
 £	
<u>EVENTS ACCOUNT</u> (As at 19 th June 2011)	1,275.59
 <u>Income</u>	
Richmond Village	600.00
Bespoke Funerals	25.00
Slimming World	25.00
Specsavers	25.00
Events Profit	448.51
 <u>Expenditure</u>	
Events	298.69
 Balance held at Bank as at 31st May 2012	 2,100.41
Cash held by Events Co-ordinator	75.00
 Available Funds	 2,175.41