



Northants 50+ Network Board Meeting

Monday 14th January from 2pm to 4pm
Asda Distribution Centre, Gowerton Road, Brackmills, Northampton, NN4 7BW

Present: John Roberts –Chair (JR) Pam Tomalin –Secretary (PT) Tony Allen -Vice Chair (TA) Cllr Eileen Higgins (EH) Susan Hills (SH) John Wevill (JW) Sandra Frampton (SF) Stephen Legg (SL) Martyn White (MW) John Wevill (JW)

NCC Officers: Stuart Whitsey

Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome From the Chair</p> <p>Apologies: Brian Cully, Jillian Powell, Judy Sullivan, Ray Hutchins Sonja Noon (3 months secondment with Northamptonshire Learning Disability Partnership Board – Stand in Stuart Whitsey)</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of Previous Meeting 12.11.12 These were agreed to be a true record.</p> <p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>3. Chair’s Report</p> <p>JR reported:</p> <p>Charity Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application to Charity Commission had been submitted Mid December • Charity Commission have asked for clarification on the purposes of the organisation, as they do not appear to be wholly charitable. • Judy Sullivan and Jillian Powell had been advised by their employers that they were unable to become trustees, but would continue to be welcome as non-voting participants, and full Board Membership will be revoked. • Current insurance does not include indemnity cover for potential trustees, and investigation for the extra cost of this will be investigated <p>MW asked about the implications for activity organisers. JR explained this was in case anyone sued the Board, for example as a claim for damages, the individual trustees of a charity would be at risk, and in the event, the indemnity cover would offer protection for the trustees. He added that the liability cover currently in place is adequate for activity organisers in the event of being sued for an accident by one of the participants.</p> <p>S L what was the amount of the cover on the current insurance. JR to check and report back on this at the next meeting.</p> <p>NHS Reforms:</p> <p>JR is in receipt of Nene Commissioning Group’s Newsletter which includes a report on the ‘Frail and Elderly Clinical Summit’ and has asked for more details as a possible topic for the 50+ Newsletter.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JR</p>

	<p>BC had advised of an error on the last line 'Balance increased since last month by £13.11' should read nil as it is still the same as last month.</p> <p>Board account balance of £13,363.63 and Events account balance £2173.72. JR mentioned that Cllr Judith Sheppard has donated £400 from the Councillors' Empowerment fund which was not included. He thanked SF for instigating this.</p>	
6.	<p>Report on Members' Survey – To identify and agree key points for action</p> <p>Discussion and suggestions took place about distributing newsletter to various venues where copies of the survey could be distributed and SF reported where she had done this in Rushden.</p> <p>TA mentioned that Kettering was area of need that had been highlighted and he was endeavouring to liaise with Age UK who had a list of various activities and events that they provide for that area, and perhaps the Network could advertise these in the newsletter.</p> <p>JR asked if the board accepted the findings and recommendations of the report. This was agreed by all, as being a positive reflection of the work of the Northants 50 Plus Network as a whole. This had been endorsed by SN. Thanks were extended to SW for producing the report.</p> <p>TA added that transport still continued to be a major problem in many areas and he was intending to have talks with Northampton 'Door to Door' mini bus service to see if any of these issues could be addressed with collaborative working. JR added that he had also received communication from SN about this service, which was an initiative that had been set up to address the problem of people unable to get to events because of transport issues, which would be followed up with a meeting with SW on 16th January.</p> <p>MW also explained that a person had to pay a fixed registration fee (he thought it was about £15) to be able to access the service. If they then do not want to use it, they have to contact the organisation and advise 2 days before. Sometimes it is not possible to contact them because the phone lines are constantly busy, or last minute plans had been changed. He added there were also difficulties in booking for a specific time, and this included the return trip, rendering it non-viable for some people with time constraints for their journey, and for people who cannot be picked up until after the venue has closed and left with nowhere to wait.</p> <p>SF also mentioned other events and services such as Age UK and SERV could be considered.</p> <p>JR added that he had imagined that the 'Door to Door' scheme was to be a voluntary operation with people using their own cars to collect others from their homes who wished to attend a social activity, (not hospital or shopping etc) and then take them home again after the event. He added he would be quite happy to do that. This would probably involve being CRB checked.</p> <p>He went on to mention another new initiative in Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire that SN had brought to his attention. This was a scheme to help people with dementia who get lost called 'Neighbourhood Return'</p> <p>SW added that 40,000 across England and Wales have dementia and 41% of those get lost each year at some point. An individual who was a risk of going missing would be registered onto the scheme. If that registered person then gets lost, a group of volunteers would then go looking for them, thereby increasing their chances of being found more quickly than if just the police were involved in the search. They were looking for volunteers to be involved, for which</p>	

	training would be provided. It was agreed that this should be published in the Newsletter and on the Website.	
7.	<p>Business Plan Update</p> <p>This was discussed and JR to update with any changes.</p> <p>1.1 SF reported on her activities in Rushden and was hopeful of a positive outcome in this area, but is still looking for someone to take over from her and run it.</p> <p>2.2 PT and SF, agreed that this was unlikely as there were no coffee mornings or activity co-ordinators to run them. Other suggestions: To research and collate all activities in the County and produce a list of these in the Newsletter. PT pointed out that this was a massive piece of work, and pointed out that someone would have to take on the task for doing it.</p> <p>MW pointed out that the large section in weekly newspapers for what's on provided a good comprehensive cover for this.</p> <p>SW suggested a reciprocal web link with other organisations where their events could be accessed, and their web links direct to the Network. It was generally felt this was a more viable option.</p>	JR
8.	<p>Roles of Members – Circulated to all</p> <p>JR pointed out that it is closely related to the business plan, and what he wanted to do was to set out the main tasks that needed to be undertaken by members of the board, or external person. He made reference to the list drawn up by Pam Wilton which ranged from broad objectives down to minute detail of actual tasks, which could be useful in the future when closely outlining and defining a particular role. eg how to organise a roadshow.</p> <p>The document was not intended to be prescriptive, but potential new officer roles were suggested ie Membership Secretary, Activities Organiser, Marketing/Publicity Officer. Some tasks will be identified by those already doing them, and he felt that most of them were already being done in the main. He added that they could be done on a job share basis, rather than just one person perhaps.</p> <p>Membership: RH had done quite a lot of work on this already and is a role new to the Board, previously carried out by NCC some of which will continue until the end of March. It could be done by a paid employee, but it would still need to be supervised by someone from the Board, so his preference would be to be done by a volunteer.</p> <p>PT said it was important to have back up with a deputy in case of holidays or illness or unforeseen absence. TA added that it would need to be someone with Excel spreadsheet knowledge as that was the format of the database, and outlined the role in a bit more detail. He added that once the system was set up, it was not too large or difficult a task under the guidance of RH (if willing to be the membership secretary) The current 50 Plus email address would be extended to accommodate additional users.</p> <p>SF and TA expressed a wish to help RH</p> <p>Activities: Current involvement PT and SF, however some areas of the role have disappeared due to lack of activity co-ordinators in most areas of the county. PT added that both she and PW had previously tried to recruit more volunteers over the last year or so, without success. Additionally most of the</p>	

	<p>original ones were no longer active. SF said she was hopeful that Christine Buchta in Wellingborough may become involved. PT and SF were in regular contact with Mike Garlick in Corby, but he had reported difficulties in getting people interested and response is poor.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding why this function of the Network is no longer working, and the main conclusion was that (with the exception of SF's activities),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in events and activities other districts had diminished over a period of time, so activity co-ordinators had ceased to operated. • There were also several other organisations providing activities such as Age UK, U3A, and DDHS 'Young at Heart' and much more to cover the social needs of the community. • Healthy walking groups (MW leads three walks in different areas, plus Nordic walks) all of which are very popular • Family commitments • Travel restrictions for those with no transport • Lack of volunteers interested in organising events <p>This was considered good news as in the main this meant that social needs were adequately covered as the Network was only required to fill any gaps and not to set up in competition.</p> <p>SF argued that there were still gaps for people who could not get out which all agreed with, however it was uncertain what Network could do to improve this situation.</p> <p>JR reiterated that the most urgent issue was the Membership Secretary, (previously discussed) and felt the remainder could be addressed at the next meeting.</p>	
9.	<p>NCC Budget Consultation</p> <p>JR has looked at the County Council Budget proposals and felt the Network should respond to the item reducing the amount spent on each person for residential care for older people. The decision last year was to reduce the amount per person, and not to make any increases that keep pace with inflation.</p> <p>NCC have to provide an Equality Impact Assessment on all the proposals, after they have consulted the care home providers and which they are required to do by law. This is likely to have a negative impact for older people and there are concerns that the budget will be fixed, or consultation is completed before the impact has been assessed.</p> <p>He proposed the Board should register concerns about this, especially as the County Council are already the lowest spender on residential care, and not to allow prices to go up to keep in line with increased costs of food and services is inevitably going to have impact on the quality of care for older people. It is likely the care homes will be saying the same, but the Network should be reinforcing it.</p> <p>Possible risks associated with this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care homes could close, as they couldn't afford to run on the money that the county council is prepared to pay. • Staff may not be as good as they couldn't to afford to pay them as much as private providers • Quality/quantity of food may be reduced. • Reduce staff costs, • Reduce energy bills, 	JR

	<p>JR to write to NCC on behalf of the Board and 50 Plus Network.</p> <p>SW mentioned SN had highlighted some of the changes to the budget which affect older people and he will email this to JR.</p> <p>SW added that 'Meals on Wheels' is another of the issues picked up, showing a proposal for a reduction of £150,000 out of that budget because a lot of meals get delivered but not eaten so a large amount of food is wasted. He suggested that a member of the Board would like to work with commissioning managers to see how the service can be changed effectively and recommended writing in a response to this.</p> <p>The deadline for a response is 5th February.</p>	SW/JR
10.	<p>Personalisation Event 30th January</p> <p>JR said this was the event that County Council had organised with the Board, at the Doddridge Centre, and at the end of last week only 4 people had registered an interest. SW amended this and said that 18 had registered but not to assume a place was booked and it was essential to register with Ben King and not just turn up.</p>	
11.	<p>Northamptonshire Consultation and Engagement Programme</p> <p>PT reported that the NCEP had followed up the launch event and booked one to one meetings with everyone who had attended and she had one booked with the organisers, Sharife Hasan and Jon Basford on 23rd February and would report back following that meeting.</p> <p>Addition to Chair's report:</p> <p>JR mentioned he had been contacted by an organisation called National Energy Action, which is a charity designed to help older people to use less energy, and he had been invited to find 6 people to attend an event in Leicester, to provide training for volunteers to be 'Energy Champions' on 20th January. He had checked their website and found no mention of the project so decided not to do anything, and following a reminder from them that nobody from Northampton was going, he explained that without more information about the project he felt unable to promote it to members, to travel to Leicester. Nor additional information was forthcoming.</p> <p>He had subsequently received an email from East Midlands Later Life Forum, who had contracted the project, expressing disappointment at his attitude and that nobody from Northamptonshire had attended. JR advised there was still time if anyone was interested in having their names forwarded.</p> <p>PT added that she had also recently received an invitation for volunteers throughout the East Midlands (including Northamptonshire) to train as 'mystery shoppers' and said that she had previously undertaken training in Nottingham a couple of years ago, and had heard nothing further since.</p>	PT
12.	<p>Regional Round up</p> <p>22nd January Wellingborough Older people's Forum All Saints Church Hall from 2 – 4pm the main topic will be on benefits.</p>	
13.	<p>AOB</p> <p>PT reported she and SF were going to attend a meeting on 15th at Richmond</p>	

	Village to discuss the Forthcoming Road shows.	
14.	Date of next meeting – Monday 11 th February 2013 2 – 4pm	

Board Meeting Dates 2013:

Asda Distribution Centre, Brackmills, Northampton NN4 7BW

February 11th 2013

March 11th 2013

April 8th 2013

May 13th 2013

June 10th 2013 **(AGM)**

July 8th 2013-01-27

August 12th 2013

September 9th 2013

October 14th 2013

November 11th 2013

December 9th 2013