

Northants 50+ Network - Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on 9th January 2012
At the Weston Favell Parish Hall

Present:

John Roberts –Chair (JR) Brian Cully –Treasurer (BC) Pam Tomalin –Secretary (PT)
Tony Allen -Vice Chair (TA) Liz Percival (LP) Susan Hills (SH) Jayantilal Patel (JP)
John Wevill (JW) Mahmoud Jebli (MJ) Cllr Eileen Higgins (EH)

Officers: Sonja Noon NCC

Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome From the Chair JR wished everyone a happy new year.</p> <p>Apologies: Fred Evans, Jillian Powell, Pam Wilton, Sandra Frampton</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of meeting 10.12.11 These were agreed to be a true record and were signed off by the Chair.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>SN Item 11: The rural adjustment included deprivation, which accounted for the increase in the Northampton figures.</p>	
3.	<p>Chair's Report</p> <p>Funding JR reported that the Tesco bid for funding activities was unsuccessful, but still awaiting a reply from 2 other bids for core funding for the network, including the current lottery fund application.</p> <p>Included in the NCC budget proposals is the deletion of P.W.s post titled "Active Ageing facilitator" but no reference to the 50+ Network or any other support for the Network.</p> <p>NCC Budget JR has written to Cllr Robin Brown (Lead for Social Care) and asked some questions on behalf of the Board and is still awaiting a reply. He continued that he had drafted a press release and was seeking Board approval of the key points. (to be discussed after Item 7)</p> <p>Marketing Permission has now been granted to promote and canvass for membership of the Network at Lings Forum with a stand in main coffee area. This is proposed to be either 23rd or 30th March. LP offered her help with this if required and subject to her availability.</p> <p>SN mentioned that there may be an problem with the next issue of the newsletter as reduced resources and team capacity meant that NCC staff would not be available to collate the information to put it all together. JR offered to help if information is forwarded to him. He added it would be good for it to coincide with the publicity campaign at Lings. SN added it would be good to aim for printing in March to fall in line with the current financial year. JR will liaise with SW or PW for timescale and</p>	<p>JR/LP</p> <p>JR</p>

	<p>printing arrangements</p> <p>JR also added he had attended an event in December with the County Council who had asked for help with an assessment for quality policies and practice, as part of a confidential peer assessment with other County Councils. He was part of a focus group including other voluntary organisations.</p>	
4.	<p>Vice Chair's Report</p> <p>Website TA reported the there is now the facility for the website to check numbers of hits and when, to enable statistical data to be collected.</p> <p>Newsletter The Graphic designer who had previously considered taking on production of the newsletter, has now decided that due to current and future commitments, this will limit the time available to him to help the Network, so has retracted the offer.</p> <p>Following discussions with one of the editors of the Chronicle & Echo they would be unable to help with the newsletter as they are only able to commit to one magazine per year which currently is 'Life begins at 50' magazine, which will be a supplement in the newspaper later this year. TA agreed to follow up with the owners of the Chronicle and Echo. LP suggested approaching the BBC Radio Northampton to ask for help, and TA agreed to follow this up</p> <p>Advertising Still awaiting a response from the 50 Plus Insurance co. for advertising on the 50 Plus website.</p> <p>TA thanked Age UK on behalf of the Network for distributing the newsletter to their 11 shops around the County. David Haynes also offered the possible opportunity of having 50+ Network articles in their future magazines should we wish to do so.</p> <p>JR had received a call from Stephen Lucas to talk about a planning application for specialist housing in Moulton. He had complimented the Network on the Website and how up to date it was.</p> <p>LP suggested advertising via the radio and web site, for people to help with the newsletter. TA said an appeal was on the web, and has been in several issues of the Newsletter, without success. He also suggested that it could be an opportunity for someone to take it on as a potential business venture, but added the hardest part was getting the advertisers at the start. He had also explored other avenues without success, but would continue to follow up with the radio stations and newspapers. LP suggested this was a good time to capitalise on the media coverage on budget cuts.</p>	<p>TA</p> <p>TA</p>
5.	<p>Treasurer's Report - A copy was circulated to all present</p> <p>BC: The Main Board account still sits with an available balance of £4362.90 with the Events Account £1545.92 available balance. An estimated joint income from PW and SF of £150 had been added giving a final balance of £1695.92 The Board account appeared to be going down quite sharply at present, and hopefully further funding will be received before too long to help keep the Network going. He noted that he did not appear to be receiving many travel claims, and requested Board members to be prompt with the submission of their expenses as he did not want a lot of last minute claims nearer to the end of the financial year. BC agreed to put together a cash flow forecast for the remaining funds up to the end of the year a.s.a.p. and circulate to all</p>	<p>BC</p>

<p>6.</p>	<p>Facilitator's Report</p> <p>Future Roadshow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting arranged with Richmond Village Retirement Homes for 16.01.12. PT and PW to meet with David Reaves (Marketing Director) and Chris Rayatt, (Social and Recreational Therapist) • The aim – to obtain sponsorship for the next Roadshow to be held in Corby or Kettering and to obtain a date for this • Suggestions for suitable venue would be welcome from the Board <p>Possible suggestions were:- Kettering Leisure Village or the Corn Market. Corby: The Cube, the Volunteer Centre, or West Glebe community centre just outside the town centre. PT to attend on behalf of the Board and report back to the next meeting.</p> <p>NCC website page highlighting volunteering and donations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PW has asked for the network to be included and a hyperlink on our website to this as well. • This would necessitate having a page on 50+ website for: Getting involved and volunteering/opportunities and Donations • Suggested looking at the NCC Libraries online portal just opened and Northamptonshire Community foundation for ideas • Requested TA to look into this and report back to the Board <p>Guildhall tour 6th of Jan – This had been successful, with SF organising 2 tours, with 20 attending the morning tour, and 22 people for the afternoon. This was well received by all participants.</p> <p>LP raised the point that some board members may be an underused resource for events, and organisers should consider tapping into this for additional help. JR agreed to discuss this with SF and LP.</p>	<p>PT</p> <p>TA</p> <p>JR</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>NCC Budget Consultation</p> <p>SN stated that most are now aware of the wide range of services provided by NCC. The purpose of the presentation was to inform about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council's financial position • Proposals published for consultation <p>To ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the Board think of the proposals? • If the Board have any alternative suggestions? <p>To Inform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How feedback will be used when the final decision has been made <p>On the 14th December the council published its draft council plan and budget for consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council plan sets out what the council plans to do from 2011-15 • The Draft Budget Sets out the council's spending plans from 2011-12 • The 8 week consultation will run until the 8th February, and be reviewed on a weekly basis. <p>SN explained the budget is about the difference between funding available and spending pressures. There are more people needing the services, while the income</p>	

from central Government has been drastically reduced. The Council are on track to make the £59mil savings needed this year, however, given the latest forecast of funding cuts, and the County's growing and ageing population, it is apparent that further cuts will be required.

- The council is facing unprecedented financial challenge
- More and more people are in need of our services while our income from government is being dramatically reduced
- In the next year the council needs to save £68 million
- In the next 4 years the council needs to save £136 million

The council has published for the first time a 4 year budget framework showing how it proposes to save approximately £100m. Central to these proposals is the Local Deal:

- The council vowing to keep the lowest county council tax in the country
- make further savings in its back office
- provide the right conditions for growth and prosperity and
- providing services where people can't help themselves
- In return the council is asking the people of Northamptonshire to come forward and volunteer to help run some of the council services to save taxpayers money and to take advantage of opportunities the council provides to help themselves

Information on all of the council's proposals are available on the following website: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/thelocaldeal Feedback will be used to affect the Council's decision making.

PT and JR agreed that they had found it quite complicated and it was not a very easy process and it took some considerable time to locate the correct section, on the CC website, and how to do it.

Furthermore they found difficulties in understanding the actual CC Budget papers.

- The 'local deal' appears to be saying that various services were going to cease, and there will be services to help people to help themselves
- They do not specify what they are going to provide.
- As so much at this stage unknown, it was impossible to give a response on behalf of the Board at this time.

SN

SN agreed to feedback the difficulties to the web team and the consultation team.

The Discussion questions: The responses may be considered as a common interest group or as individuals, but all feedback will be used to affect the Council's decision making:

1. What do you think of the council's proposals? Do you agree or disagree?
2. What type of impact may these proposals have on you?
3. What could the council do to help mitigate this impact?
4. Do you have any further comments on these proposals?
5. Do you have any alternative suggestions for the way that the council could save money?

The Draft Revenue Budget 2012-113 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2012-13 to 2015-16 will be decided on the 24th February by a meeting of the full Council. Anyone wishing to attend or speak the meeting should contact Jenny Rendall, Democratic Services on 01604 237560 by 12 noon, two working days before the meeting.

- Council meetings are normally held in public and members of the public are welcome to attend to listen to the discussion.
- Members of the public also have the right to speak on any item on the Agenda for that meeting. An individual addressing the meeting is allowed up to 3 minutes to make their point.
- It will be a Question time event, and those interested but not able to attend can also use other network services such as twitter, face book or write to : The Local Deal, Northamptonshire County Council, Northampton, NN1 1AN or
- Submitting an e-petition:
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/council/petitions

TA asked how this was being publicised people who do not have computers?

SN responded that in addition there will be presentations to groups around the County, also doing press releases, discussions on local radio, and open meetings around the county, but unfortunately, the publicity and booking forms appeared to only be accessible via the NCC Website. JR added that there was a video available to watch (also on the net)

Discussions around the table:

SN spoke of the savings to be made over the next four years and quite a lot of the prevention money is targeted at older people, although it is not broken down as specific client group. She added that there will be cuts in the unit cost of care for older people to achieve an average reduction in 10% in base unit costs of social care. There will be:

- mitigated outcomes based payments so making a saving of 5% on what is currently paid per unit
- contract will be tied into an incentive – not outcomes
- they will be negotiated with the service providers
- Care home providers are being consulted, and currently endeavouring to provide a figure for the cost per unit for care – and the outcome of that decision will be taken into account when the final decision is made.

Additional Savings - The CC are going to:

- Pay 5% less for older people's services as well as the savings.
- Cease renting some properties
- include reductions in staff and office premises
- More people will be expected to 'hot desk' and share working space to reduce overheads and reduce costs.
- Restructuring the management team – the number of service managers will be reduced in adult social care
- A review of commissioning contracts on the monitoring and engagements teams e.g. learning disability
- Some Contracts will not be renewed and the CC are going to increase the amount they charge some adult care services.
- Inflation applied at 0 % in some cases and proposing to increase the amount for adult social care equivalent to CPI 3.1%.

SN responded the Council run homes are a higher standard of care than private care homes according to the inspectors. In the future there will be no council run homes, as a new company (Olympus Care) is being set up to run them all. As it is expected there will be a reduction in funding for all of them, that is another way the Council is going to reduce costs.

SN

JR: asked how that would work for a residential care home? SN: agreed to try to find out and come back with what this will be based on.

Discussion on the fairer charging policies took place and it was felt that 50+ would support that.

Press Release – JR on behalf of the Board (copies circulated to Board)

JR asked the members of the Board if they felt it is fair to say that the cuts will have a serious negative impact on the quality of life of older people because of the sheer volume of money that is being taken out of the budget. All agreed.

SN asked for examples of the impact:

JR: replied that the only one he could understand was the amount that is paid for residential care which in his opinion, the cuts will reduce the quality of life for those people.

Addressing SN as a representative of NCC he continued that the Board had been asked to identify what the impact of the cuts will be – but in reality he felt it is their duty as a CC to tell us what the impact is going to be. The Equality Act of 2010 imposes a duty on the CC to do that. It shouldn't be for the Board to be telling them.

SN replied that the question had been asked in order that other impacts that NCC hadn't identified were not overlooked, and it was about total inclusion and not just NCC making the decisions. There are quality impact assessments published on the website.

TA felt that the ratio between carers and residents in care homes will be affected by the cut backs. He added that he could foresee closures of private homes because of the lack of money coming in. JW suggested respite care should also be included in the equations.

JR: continued that in the draft press release he had referred to the reduction of £10m over 4 years by reshaping resource allocation system for adult social care services and had no idea what this meant. All agreed this was unclear

SN

SN: replied she would obtain an accurate definition of the Reshaping of Resource Allocation System and feedback to the Board.

JR

JR: asked if everyone if they felt it important that as a collective Board a declaration of concerns and criticisms about the budget should be made public. All voted in favour. JR to proceed with the press release.

Discussions continued...

EW: asked if there were any indications of how many people are already classed as supported, either in homes or domiciliary care? Presumably they have added a % for what they expect the increase will be over the period of the budget.

SN

SN: agreed to obtain the figures and they had taken into account the cuts from central government and the increase needs on the services over a period of time.

The following questions were asked to be fed back to NCC:

- How did the NCC know that prevention would keep people out of expensive

	<p>care?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can it be shown that it works in terms of reducing the costs overall? • Where is the evidence and how is it going to be gained? • NCC will only fund preventative services that can show evidence of impact – How will this be decided when it hasn't happened yet? • Is there evidence to show that keeping people active and healthy and living in their own homes outweighs the cost of residential care? <p>The only hard evidence is the falls prevention service where certain strategies work in that they prevent people who have already had a fall from having another one. It sounds like common sense but there is no evidence that it actually happens like that.</p> <p>JR felt the Equality Impact Assessments ought to be more honest about the impact on the customers (the service users) as well as the staff. Cuts in staff engaged or involved with older people have been categorised with a neutral impact and clearly there's a negative one. E.G. the deletion of the facilitator's post for the 50 + Network should be assessed as a negative impact for older people – because the whole job is related to the 50+ group and yet they've said it's a neutral impact.</p> <p>SN offered to feedback the above questions and comments to NCC Proposed PT Seconded by TA Agreed by all</p> <p>TA added that he thought that the information in all the policy documents should be made clearer and more open and specific about its proposals as it is aimed at people of all levels of intelligence. It should be easier to understand with less jargon. If it is unclear, the average person will not be able to respond. Agreed by all</p>	SN
8.	<p>NCC Prevention Consultation Stage 2</p> <p>JR: this was partially discussed in last agenda item, but this is about the opportunity to respond to the full presentation from SN at last meeting and to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • say what the Board think about it • What to feed back to the NCC. Consultation team? <p>On a personal level, he felt it was very difficult to comment, partly due to not being a service user and not being totally clear on the whole prevention strategy.</p> <p>A general discussion took place about who will make the local decisions with the consensus that it should be a combination of legal experts/lawyers, local councillors and service users.</p> <p>A suggestion that the decision makers should spend time on a face to face basis with the service users, to be able see things from their point of view was put forward for consideration.</p>	
9.	Review of Plan (postponed until next meeting due to time constraints)	
10.	Regional Roundup – Nothing to report	
11.	<p>A.O.B.</p> <p>TA mentioned the Vintage Tea Dance at the Picturedrome on Thursday 26th January.</p> <p>A short discussion took place about the frequency of the Board meetings, and if they should be 12 or 6 per year, as laid down in the constitution. The interim meetings were introduced when Roger Rumsey was chair in order that the Board could get to know each other, and it has remained the same ever since All agreed to carry on</p>	

	for now with every month and consider the options at a later date.	
	JR thanked all for attending and the meeting was closed	

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 6th February 2012 Weston Favell Parish Hall, NN3 3EP