

Northants 50+ Network - Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on 12th December 2011
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)
John Wevill (JW) Sandra Frampton (SF) Jillian Powell (JP)

Officers: Sonja Noon NCC Pam Wilton (NCC Facilitator)

Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome From the Chair</p> <p>Apologies: Cllr Eileen Higgins (EH) Mahmoud Jebli (MJ) Fred Evans</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of meeting 14.11.11 These were agreed to be a true record and were signed off by the Chair.</p> <p>Matters Arising SF reported that the Extra time project has now signed up 30 older people and a new project is starting in the new year for 12 weeks. SF confirmed she is still on the steering group on behalf of the Network.</p> <p>Item 6: Safeguarding Sub-Group. SN confirmed no meeting yet of the safeguarding committee, but will continue to keep the Network informed.</p>	
3.	<p>Chair's Report</p> <p>No report as JR has been engaged putting together the lottery bid for the Network.</p> <p>EMOPAG: Reported on behalf of Cllr Eileen Higgins by JR. It was an interesting meeting on 29th November, the main topic being the new NHS and the effect it would have on older people's services. EMOPAG have been offered a place on the E. Midlands Health Watch Boards which will replace the PCTs. It was generally felt that older people should have representatives on these. All County Councils will have to have Health & Wellbeing and Prevention Strategy Boards.</p> <p>The Chair of EMOPAG wrote to all first tier Councils 2 months ago, asking for their strategy for Older People. She added that Northamptonshire had not replied except for a holding letter.</p> <p>She added that there are some new older people's groups in the region: AAA (Age Action Alliance) EMLLF (East Midlands Later Life Forum) the latter within the DWP.</p> <p>JR reported he had followed up with SN the older people's strategy and Active Ageing is the current older people's strategy for NCC which dates back over 5 years.</p> <p>SN responded that the active ageing strategy is now out of date and is now the Older People's Strategy which looks after care homes and domestic cases. The</p>	

	<p>Active Ageing Strategy for older people has been factored into the Prevention Strategy. She added that she is awaiting a response for the current commitment to update the strategy. JR added that it was important that any future strategies should reflect the needs of older people.</p> <p>JW mentioned he had attended the Wellingborough Older People’s Forum and he raised the issue of funding for disabled and older people which was not being guaranteed for more than 3 months, and the issue (also reported in NVCA news letter) had not been addressed at all. He felt the need to be aware that most of the funding appears to be going to young people and families services.</p> <p>SN responded that NCC will target the money to those services that have evidence where there are the best outcomes and preventing people from going up to higher cost services.</p> <p>JP asked if an example of this could be a service to stop people having to go back into hospital or other prevention services. SN added that Falls Prevention services would be included, as there was evidence that this worked.</p> <p>JW added that he understood the funding for carers was going to be cut, and that very often people leaving hospital would need someone to look after them, otherwise they are likely to go back into hospital. SN replied that a new initiative had been set up to prevent people being re-admitted to hospital.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Vice Chair’s Report - A copy was circulated to all present</p> <p>Newsletter:</p> <p>TA. Reported on discussions with Chris Willies of ‘Mono Cube Designs’ who is a qualified graphic designer, who has volunteered to help with production of the news letter and has several useful contacts for printing and advertising. He stated that the intention was to have full cost recovery from the advertisers. Matters will be reviewed in January and update to the Board then.</p> <p>Age UK:</p> <p>TA confirmed 10 copies of the news letter have now gone out to all 11 shops of Age UK, and thanked GP and Age UK for facilitating that exercise. JR raised the issue that some people who receive their copy by post, are unhappy because by the time they read it, the activities have been booked by those who have had theirs by email. PW replied this has been rectified with a delay on the email versions until after the posted copies have gone out. SF replied this does not appear to have made a difference and PW suggested this may be related to postal delay from NCC, and it was likely that they do not all go out on the same day. SN suggested holding the postal copies a little longer e.g. 1 week.</p> <p>PW added that there were 297 attendees for last year’s events, and now increased to 382 different people over the last 12 months which is a large increase.</p> <p>PW stated that SF is currently on overload with the amount of events and activities she is involved in and really could do with some help. LP said she would be available after January.</p>	

	<p>Website and Fundraising:</p> <p>TA mentioned an opportunity to raise money by offering an insurance service to members. Following a meeting with the Business Development Manager for '50 Plus Insurance Services', (Brokerage on behalf of the AXA group) and are offering 10% discount on home and car insurance renewal premiums, for 50+ Network members. In addition, they will pay £20 to the Network for every member that signs up with them. Similar schemes are in operation with other large organisations and offer comprehensive policies that could be beneficial to our members. If members stay with them they offer a further £20 to the network with each renewal. Would be prepared to provide information, personalised to the Network, that could go out with the newsletter. Proposed, PT seconded BC voted and agreed by all present.</p> <p>TA reported he is still involved with the Intergenerational photography project for an exhibition to be shown in the town next year</p> <p>Name badges were distributed to all board members, and PW agreed to post out the ones for the activity co-ordinators, but TA suggested that a warning notice relating to the magnetic properties of the badges could affect pacemakers or other devices.</p>	TA/PW
5.	<p>Treasurer's Report - A copy was circulated to all present</p> <p>Still not much activity with a current balance of £5,151.15 in the Board Account, (but awaiting a bill for the newsletter from the printers). and £1,695 in the Events Account, which includes amounts from SF and PW .</p>	
6.	<p>Facilitator's Report – A copy was circulated to all present</p> <p>Newsletter: PW reported that all copies had been posted or emailed to all members and thanked Stuart Whitsey for his excellent work, and there were only 29 copies left. A copy has also been posted on the 50+ website. SN asked for the Board to let NCC know before the March issue if extra copies would be needed to be printed.</p> <p>Facilitator's Role: As the replacement facilitator is no longer in post, PW will return to 3 days a week.</p> <p>Activity Coordinators:</p> <p>PW: The first East Northants coffee morning went well with 9 attending at the Bridge Hotel in Thrapston, with further such events booked to continue in January. The Knit and natter group had started 2 weeks previously at Ruands Library, and it was suggested a similar group for Thrapston may be possible.</p> <p>Membership: Over the last two months membership had increased overall by 42. This was broken down into various districts with reductions in some areas and increases in others.</p> <p>PW/SN mentioned the NCC are asking for organisations who use volunteers and accept donations with an offer to go onto the NCC Volunteering and Donations web site, subject to eligibility, and if the 50+ Network would be interested. NCC are creating a website highlighting all the volunteering and donation opportunities that the council offer. Details and applications for inclusion to the Communications and Marketing Team of NCC. All agreed this would be a good idea.</p> <p>PW mentioned a new initiative aimed at those who receive the winter fuel payment and who do not need it could donate to the Northamptonshire Community Foundation's 'Surviving Winter Appeal', and would it be possible to promote this via</p>	

	<p>the Network website? TA proposed and seconded by PT. Details to be emailed to TA for inclusion on the Website.</p> <p>SF: The matter of promotional activities aimed at increasing new members, would be hampered by a lack of current newsletters being available to hand out, due to limited editions currently being printed in line with the budget. TA suggested perhaps factoring in an estimate for additional copies being allowed for in the future to cover these eventualities. PW added it worked out at about 20p per copy.</p>	
7.	<p>Lottery Fund Application – A copy was circulated to all present</p> <p>JR thanks SN and BC for their help with the lottery bid application, which is being made to cover the ongoing costs of keeping the 50+ Network running over the next 5 years. Annual costs being in excess of £43,000 p.a.</p> <p>JR highlighted the biggest single item is the cost a full time facilitator and the expenses of that person, followed by the cost of the volunteers and officers of the Board and related expenses, and the cost of the newsletter plus a few minor costs, including maintaining the Website, insurance, venue for monthly Board meetings and the cost for some additional capital equipment such as a projector and screen for presentations.</p> <p>SN suggested the bid could include possible management costs, such as someone to provide a brokerage management service rather than direct employment with the Network. JR stated this had not been included, but he was in discussion with the NVCS for future possibilities, but had no idea of a management fee at this stage. TA added that he had concerns if the Network became an employing organisation, this would involve legal obligations.</p> <p>SN clarified the position by explaining the provision by the NCC of a facilitator, will no longer exist after March 2012, so the Network would then need to consider having their own facilitator, whether employed directly by them or via another agency. GP confirmed that the current going rate for this type of role in the voluntary sector is between £20 - £25K. plus Nat Ins and tax + pension fund. All these type of things need to be covered in the bid now, as it would not be possible to go back and ask for more at a later date.</p> <p>JR added a management fee could be included in the bid, bringing this to a total of around £28K, if the Network were not going to be the employing organisation. It was suggested it would possibly be better through an agency in case the person is off sick. SN: The management fee to an agency, would not cover the cost of a replacement, should the individual have a long term leave of absence. BC suggested the possibility of a self employed person could be a consideration for discussion in the future.</p> <p>JR asked for board approval to send this to the Lottery fund. He is also involved in other lottery bids. All agreed to submit the bid with a few additions for management fees and capital goods, also for similar applications with other grant organisations to be submitted as backup, in case this was unsuccessful. All expressed their thanks to JR for his hard work in preparing the grant application.</p>	JR
8.	<p>Richmond Village Roadshow Proposal</p> <p>JR reported the Richmond Retirement Village would be happy to organise a road show in partnership with the Network. They would pay for the cost of the venue but it is likely to be in Northampton. This would be a similar format to previous road shows that have been facilitated by the 50+ Network, such as Brixworth, Long</p>	

	<p>Buckby, and Moulton.</p> <p>SN pointed out the cost of a road show was about £7-800 pounds which if RV were prepared to cover most of the costs, it could only be of benefit to the Network. TA added they already advertise on the Website</p> <p>The Board agreed in principle to collaborate with their offer. PW suggested April/May 2012 could be a possibility.</p>	
9.	Review of Plan (postponed until later due to time constraints – moved onto item 10)	
10.	<p>NCC Budget Consultation</p> <p>JR had been informed by SN the NCC Budget Consultation is no longer possible as the Budget details will not be published until 13th Dec and there is an embargo on this, so discussion will be deferred to Jan meeting of the Board.</p> <p>SN added that the budget runs from 13th until the 8th February, and she will attend the Jan Board meeting to explain all the budgets. It will also be published on NCC Website from 13th for anyone to look at.</p> <p>SN mentioned an Intergenerational event which was held last year used to look at budget proposals for older and younger people, and was particularly successful and will be repeated next year, with date and venue t.b.c. She added that this was one of the areas where the Network as a group, can really start to lobby on behalf of older people. SN asked if anyone who is interested in this event to let her know.</p> <p>JW had raised the issue at a meeting regarding the money that the Government had given to NCC to prevent cuts in services, and the Government had given in total £2billion to local authorities, and he was concerned that it wasn't ring fenced. The administrator had offered to have a discussion about this if he wished. SN replied that this was part of the Network's representatives' role, and suggested we needed to see if the cuts being made are disproportionate to older people.</p>	
11.	<p>NCC Prevention Consultation Stage 2</p> <p>SN: NCC have launched the second stage of the Prevention Consultation. It will cover 3 areas; the draft strategy, which has been developed from feedback received during the first phase, a fairer funding methodology and local decision making.</p> <p>The results of phase 1 went to Cabinet in November. Decision were taken including extending the consultation for a further 3 months and an agreement to extend some local area contracts while a new approach is being agreed. Some would be finishing at the end of March, a few have been extended for 3 months (some for 6 months) but most were extended to 1 or 2 years to allow time to develop a new approach in the County. The Cabinet approved the strategy for consultation and agreed to develop a funding methodology.</p> <p>The most important thing is about how the money will be targeted at those services that can show that they can prevent additional expensive services coming into force. If there are no outcomes, those services are unlikely to be funded in the future.</p>	SN

It was generally felt that it was very difficult to prove if something hasn't happened, and the question was raised on how it would be possible to prove someone was not ill, and how further needs had been prevented?

SN replied that the money will be spent on those services that can show there is an impact, and quite a few of the older people's services have not got that evidence in place.

What the Strategy is covering:

The money (which will form part of the budget consultation) is to cover the whole County and to support all ages, from children and young people, parents and families to older people.

Key Points of the Strategy for NCC and all its partners and communities in the County were:

- Wanting to work with local communities
- Making considerable savings
- To make an impact on preventing children, families and older people from needing high cost services

Prevention Focus – Feedback from consultations. Key points:

- There is reduced spending for social care and health services
- The population of Northamptonshire is growing and changing which means more people will need help from services
- There is evidence that prevention services can help more vulnerable people with less resource and give better outcomes
- Many of the priorities for customers and families were similar; much easier access to local support, with just one place to go for help and agencies sharing information to avoid multiple assessments
- Having access to specialists when they are needed
- Providers felt there were opportunities from working in collaboration but feared loss of choice, specialist services and knowledge and skills
- People felt that the hub offered opportunities for working together and bringing services together in one location, creating less duplication and waste.
- It needs to be easy for people to find the hub they need
- They must be able to respond to a variety of needs

In summary it was clear that people wanted access to local support, and just one place to go for help, and agencies needed to share information to avoid multiple assessments. More people should be able to get the help they need in their local area, which could cut demand for specialist services and create opportunities for employment and volunteering.

In reply to a query from JW regarding finances and The Wellingborough Health and Wellbeing Board, SN replied that there has been no agreement to put prevention money through Health and Wellbeing Boards at the present time.

Funding methodology:

NCC have started to develop a funding methodology to share the funds across the county fairly. It is quite a complicated formula, so it has been broken down for the

SN/PT

consultation purposes.

Historically funding was distributed to groups, often delivering multiple services to the same group of people. This duplication has to change and we need to find a more equitable way to deliver services. In general people felt there was very little joining up with statutory agencies. There are several prevention pots of money in health, district and boroughs as well as the county council, but very little has been pooled to purchase services.

So moving forward; To find a way that will give funding to local areas in a fair way. This is being done by looking at the population of the County, the budget for prevention, and then proposing to adjust it around a range of indicators.

These could include:

- income
- employment
- health and disability
- education and skills
- barriers to housing services
- living environments
- external environments and if people feel safe in the areas they live in
- crime.

Customers have raised that older people and social isolation are not included, which obviously does affect older people.

These are the measures being proposed. The Board need to decide if they think these are fair and feedback via the consultation if they believe any areas are missing.

So the question is - is the proposal fair? – and what other measurements should be used? and to give examples of what needs to be taken into consideration as well. For instance: social isolation as being a measure, or drugs and alcohol. So this is the opportunity to say if older people should be considered.

JR: added that something simple and measurable like the number of people who are treated in the hospitals because of falling, that's not included?

SN: No, and these are just the proposals, so this is your opportunity to say if you think these proposals are fair, and what else should be considered, and this is a national measurement, not from NCC.

SH added that one of the reasons older people are not in there is because we are not allowed to age discriminate any more, however, you may have older people in health and disability, and living environments, so indirectly they are included.

NCC will be holding events around the County. People can attend one of the events or you can write to NCC with thoughts and opinions about it.

Another issue that came back through the consultation, was that it was more expensive to fund services in rural areas, and should there be an adjustment for rural areas to help them provide services?

SN: NCC are asking if there should be a rural adjustment as we are a rural county. We're not advising anything, we're just asking the questions. There are 3 parts to the consultation;

1. The strategy:

- (a) Do we use the indices of social deprivation and if there is anything else

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- we should consider ?
- (b) Should there be a rural adjustment? Or other adjustments?
- 2. The funding methodology
 - (a) Is it fair?
 - (b) Should other things be taken into account?
 - (c) What do you think they are?
- 3. How people make decisions in a local area
 - (a) who is going to be involved in making decisions?
 - (b) what services are funded?
 - (c) The monitoring and how this will work
 - (d) How will local people's needs be met?

As an example; £100 would be divided round the County as follows:, Corby would get £12.20, Kettering £13.20, Daventry £8.80, South Northants £8.50, Northampton £36.40, Wellingborough £14.10, and E. Northants £6.80.

Factoring in the rural adjustment:

Corby would only get £9.80, Kettering £10.50, Daventry up to £9.10p, S. Northants £9.80, Northampton up to £37.40, Wellingborough comes down and E. Northants goes up. Making decisions makes an impact on the different areas

A short discussion followed on why Northampton had a much larger amount, with the response being that it was the largest populated area, in which case it did not make sense that the rural adjustment added to that.

SN agreed to look into the figures, and went on to explain that the figures can be adjusted in lots of different ways e.g. Health and Disability – Rural – levels of crime in an area – there are any number of ways the funding formulae can be changed. What adjustments are wanted to make it fair?

JR: Raised the following question: The county is divided into 7 areas; what happens if a person lives in Daventry District, but the services they want to access are in Northampton? Will this be possible when they live in another district? Also should the Health and Wellbeing Boards have a say, or the GP Consortia?

SN: Recommended that was a question that should put in writing, as that is the sort of issue that should be considered. What happens if you live on the edge of somewhere? What happens to the pot of money? Is there a restriction on accessing it, because they are outside area that has the funding?

She went on to mention that there will be consultation events held around the county in January and February, and booking forms had been handed out to book for any one of these. It was strongly recommended that as many as possible attend them, and really important that people get involved, as NCC are not prescribing anything but are asking for people to tell them what they think to enable them to make the decisions. All of the locality health commissioners will be invited to these events for their input, together with district Borough representatives.

At the end of the consultation on 29th February, all the feedback will go to the May Cabinet to make the decisions having been fully informed on what people think. Over the next year the strategy will be adopted and the methodology in place.

Hard copies of the draft strategy were distributed for the Board to study, and see

SN

	<p>how it reflects older people's services, together with a short questionnaire to be posted back to Sonja by 29th February 2012.</p> <p>SN agreed to email copy of her presentation to PT and the Strategy will be attached to the minutes to go to all Board members.</p> <p>JR suggested that if we are going to respond to this as an organisation, rather than as individuals, (as an organisation, it should carry more weight), we should have time to read the strategy and think about it – have it on agenda for January (although we still would not have attended the consultation events by then) and Feb meeting we could agree our response.</p> <p>SN suggested both individuals and board response. SN asked for the aforementioned events to be posted on the 50+ website and would provide the appropriate information to be sent to T.A.</p> <p>SN added that the NCC are running a 'Customer Test' event for both customers and providers, on 12th January @ County Hall 10am for two hours and are looking for as many volunteers as possible to be involved.</p> <p>It was collectively agreed to leave the review of the plan to another meeting</p>	<p>SN/PT</p> <p>SN/TA</p>
12.	<p>Regional Roundup</p> <p>PT mentioned the South Northants School of Life had organised a survival weekend in January and were short of 'older people' to participate. There was also to be a launch of a 'School of Life Pop Group' in January which would take place at Towcester library. They were looking for anyone with an interest and musical talent was not necessarily a requirement, although there was a need for a musical director. A flyer would be sent to TA for advertising the project shortly.</p> <p>JW mentioned that Wellingborough Council were considering funding the Older Peoples Forum when current sponsorship ceases.</p>	<p>PT</p>
13.	<p>A.O.B.</p> <p>PT requested the gentlemen of the board endeavour to arrive in good time before the board meetings to help with setting up the furniture, as it was a bit of a struggle for the ladies on their own.</p> <p>PT mentioned that the Northamptonshire Falls service had expressed a wish to come speak about their services at any of our meetings or forums, as most people did not know they existing or what they provided. They also offered a free membership which enabled current and updated information to be sent out, and asked if we could pass this onto our members. All agreed</p> <p>PW mentioned that the Northampton Partnership Grant for Northampton event needs to be in by mid January. She would liaise with SF for a suitable event.</p>	<p>PT</p>
	<p>JR thanked all for attending and the meeting was closed</p>	

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 9th January 2012 Weston Favell Parish Hall, NN3 3EP