

**Northants 50+ Network Board  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**Location: Parish Hall, Weston Favell**

**Present:** Tony Allen (TA)  
 Jenny Cotton-Howells (JC)  
 Jenny Dixon (JD)  
 David Hinde (DH)  
 Joan McDowall (JM)  
 John Roberts (JR)  
 Roger Rumsey (RR)                   **[Chair]**  
 Pam Tomalin (PT)  
 Mick Ward (MW)  
 John Wevill (JW)  
 Susan Hills (SH)

Ben King (BK)                   NCC **[Minute taker]**  
 Cllr Eileen Higgins (EH)       Wellingborough Borough Council  
 Sonja Noon (SN)               NCC  
 Cllr Gina Ogden (GO)         NCC  
 Jayne Roycroft (JR)         South Northants Homes  
 Pam Wilton (PW)               NCC

**Apologies:** Doreen Berry (DB)  
 Judy Sullivan (JS)

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b><u>1. Welcome and Introductions</u></b>            RR announced that Rita Hinde has resigned from the board. He acknowledged the extensive contribution Rita has made. Rita is now perusing activities in the district of East Northants and the Board hopes she will still join in with events in the future.</p> <p>GO was welcomed as a county champion for Older People.</p>	
<p><b><u>2. Apologies</u></b>            See above</p>	
<p><b><u>3. Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></b>            PW circulated some corrections to the minutes, for the previous meeting dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010. These were accepted as a true and accurate record.</p>	
<p><b><u>4. Matters Arising</u></b>            In relation to insurance schedule of cover some people did not receive this as they were absent at the last meeting when it was handed out. PW to post this out to board members who were absent.</p>	PW
<p>(Item 7.1) SN asked who had volunteered to attend the School of Life and quarterly East Midlands meetings, PW to send a list of people for this to SN.</p>	PW

## **5. Treasurers Report**

DH reported the balance as £1589.32. DH noted that a separate account has been opened for events, with a balance on 08/03/10 of £1806.85. Therefore total network funds at present equal £3396.17.

SN encouraged board members to claim expenses from the organisers of external of events wherever possible, so that 50+ Network funds can be used for other purposes. A few board members highlighted the difficulty in claiming money, where delays caused hardship especially for 3-figure costs incurred. PT suggested that a board float is used to cover expenses in the interim whilst waiting for reimbursement from external event organisers, and then individuals will need to reimburse the board accordingly. DH opposed this but agreed to board members submitting expense forms to him clearly marked "ADVANCE PAYMENT, TO BE REPAID WHEN MY PAYMENT IS RECEIVED FROM ....." , he can pay this quickly and the board member will repay the sum at a later date.

DH

SN had received a letter from the "99" event apologising for the delay in reimbursement. SN to chase for the money.

SN

## **Non-item agenda – Cllr Gina Ogden as Older People Champion**

RR suggested change in agenda for GO to speak next about her role as a county champion for Older People. GO explained that she:-

- is attending 50+ Network board meetings to listen and learn of what happens
- attends dignity champion forums
- is Chair of overview and scrutiny for the Health & Adult Social Services directorate
- works closely with Northamptonshire LINK
- is addressing the care needed for 400,000 people with a government shortfall of £250 million. In total it costs Northamptonshire £650 million each year.
- is looking at out-of-hours services
- is looking at demographics in terms of people with dementia
- works with Northampton Borough Council's Sheltered Housing to see if improvements can be made
- aims for sustainable communities, making changes to referrals and hospital discharges so that people can live independently in their own homes instead of admitting them to care homes
- addressing carer roles and how carers are looked after, under NCC's theme of "Helping You to Help Yourself".

JD noted that as part of the Carers Thematic Partnership it is hoped that care workers are placed into each hospital.

## **6. Feedback from training day**

All agreed that another session is needed, as there were questions left unanswered from the training day. JM felt it was a good day overall, it had improved her basic understanding. JD felt that a lot of ground was covered, and

suggested that for the next session principles of the initial training day are applied to the business plan.

JW felt that sufficient time has been given to drafting and redrafting the plan to date. PT/JD stated that it needs refining in context of the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

SN to invite back Liz Manderville (Change Agents) who had facilitated the previous training, however noted that a charge would be applicable to the board for this.

### **7. Consultations**

**Fairer Charging** – SN explained that feedback had been received from 600 people through surveys and focus groups. Some questions are to be revised, cabinet have agreed to extend the consultation period for this. SN is working with James Varlow (Service Manager) and Ben Luck (Policy Officer) to revise questions so that sufficient information on the impact on people is collected. The question “Should we charge carers?” will not be asked again. A working group has been set up to develop the second consultation, JW is part of this and LINK. Then a test group will test the questionnaire before the second consultation is launched, the 50+ Network are supporting this. The second consultation will last for 8 weeks from the date it is ready.

**Service Planning** – SN explained that this is a plan of how services will be delivered. A powerpoint presentation on this has been done by James Varlow, which can be emailed out on request. SN highlighted that people who attended the information session highlighted home care services is the biggest issue.

**You Choose** – SN outlined that the county council need to make significant savings in a challenging economic climate. This consultation is to find out what services are important. SN suggested running a short 20 minute workshop on this at the end of the next board meeting, also the workshop to be duplicated at Older People forums.

### **8. Evaluation and measuring success**

SN reported that this is” work in progress”, and needs to look at best value. The regulators want to know what difference the network makes. SN circulated a draft survey questionnaire, suggesting that it is completed annually by a representative sample.

To improve the number of responses SN recommended the survey is completed over the phone. TA was concerned that this would not be anonymous.

Other suggestions included:-

- Add geographic areas of where people live (TA)
- Gather feedback at events (JC)
- Do a prize-draw for completing a survey (TA)
- Use electronic multi-choice system at events (JR)
- Group the questions into related sections

JM and SN to work together on revising the survey/questionnaire.

SN

SN  
JW

SN

JM/SN

<p><b><u>9. Feedback from Older People’s forum launches</u></b>  <b>BME</b> – 8 elder representatives from communities have been identified across the county.  <b>Wellingborough</b> – JD reported poor attendance at the last forum, possibly due to bad weather.  <b>Kettering</b> – very good afternoon and interesting agenda.  <b>Daventry</b> – PT noted that this was fully supported, recently there was an intergenerational event. However issues are not being raised.  <b>South Northants</b> – PT said this went extremely well, she is on the steering group. Problems raised include transport. The forum is supported by a CVS (Community Volunteering Services).  <b>Northampton</b> – RR to meet with Northampton Borough Council to find out if the forum will be kept, as he has been told that funding may be withdrawn for it.</p>	RR
<p><b><u>10. Regional Round-Up</u></b>  Already covered earlier in meeting.</p>	PW
<p><b><u>11. Any Other Business</u></b>  <b>Buses</b> – JD pointed out that NCC are reviewing bus services subsidies, with a view to making cuts. It is concerning that routes to hospitals are under review, so this is something that the board may wish to discuss at a future meeting. The contact at NCC for the review is John Ellerby (Principal Bus and Rail Development Officer). RR suggested that John Ellerby is invited to the next board meeting.</p>	PW SN
<p><b>Away Day</b> – SN suggested that “Roles &amp; Responsibilities” of the board needs looking at, so this will be added to the away day agenda.</p>	SN
<p><b>NHS involvement</b> – Katherine Parker (NHS) has offered to come to the next board meeting to do a presentation on involving the community. SN to arrange this.</p>	
<p><b>Website</b> – there is an amount of £3,000 on the School of Life project that SN can reassign for website development for the network, SN to produce a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for this if the board approve , the board agreed but felt that we may need “a top up” to complete the work.</p>	SN/RR
<p><b>Silver Surfer sessions</b> – (JC) Age Concern have funding for these, they can arrange groups of 10 from rural locations to be transported to Northampton for computer training, which includes lunch.</p>	
<p><b>Capacity Builders</b> – (JC) Age Concern can support the development of groups by providing training.</p>	
<p><b>Summer Mystery Tour</b> – (PT) This is on 7<sup>th</sup> July, tickets cost £23 each. The bus collects from Towcester, Northampton and Wellingborough. Phone 01327 703626 to book a place.</p>	PT
<p><b>Spalding Flower Parade &amp; Festival</b> – (PT) This is on 1<sup>st</sup> May, tickets cost £14 each (at senior rate). The bus collects from Towcester, Northampton and Wellingborough. Phone 01327 703626 to book a place.</p>	PT
<p><b>Northamptonshire Police “Doorstep Crime”</b> – This is an Action Network, the</p>	TA

police are encouraging vulnerable and elderly people to sign up to this. There is an event about it on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March between 11am – 1.30pm at police headquarters. TA is attending on our behalf.

**Insurance** – this is due for renewal in April. RR to look into this.

**Constitution** – JD suggested that this is revised in light of Rita's resignation. SH and JD to work on this.

**June Roadshow /AGM**– As agreed at our previous meeting that our AGM would be combined with a Northampton Roadshow as we have been offered free use of Lings Forum for the event, PT appealed for board volunteers to assist on the day, this will be at Weston Favell Lings Forum Leisure Centre.

**12. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

12<sup>th</sup> April, 2 – 4pm, Parish Hall in Weston Favell