

BIRMINGHAM LINKS – OLDER PERSONS ACTION GROUP
Minutes from Meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2011
(2.00 – 4.15 p.m.) at The MAC (Midlands Art Centre)
Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH

PRESENT:

- Joceyln Tennant (JT)
- Mike Tye (MT)
- Edwin Martin (EW)
- Sylvia Malton (SM) – BID Services
- Doris Spiers (DS)
- Norman Howell MBE (NH)
- Sarah Coad (SC) – BID Services
- Ken Barrow (KB)
- Mohammed Shafiq (MS) – BID
- Tariq Somra (TS) – DISC

FACILITATORS PRESENT:

- Andrew John (AJ) – Gateway Family Services
- Linda Onerhime (LO) Gateway Family Services
- Claire Lockey (CL) – Gateway Family Services (Minute Taker)

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

- Adib Quasim

1. INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGISES/SIGNING IN SHEET

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 8th FEBRUARY 2011

a) Accuracy

All agreed that the minutes were a true record.

b) Matters Arising

GP Consortium – AJ said the LINK is doing a programme to identify the key players for the GP Consortium. Two GP's appointed for Health Works Commissioning: Dr. Harding for Sandwell and a GP for Newtown. There are now five GP Consortiums identified within Birmingham and the LINK will approach them to formulise relationships.

Health Watch – AJ advised a meeting took place on 5th February 2011 and a subsequent meeting held on 24th February where 7-8 people attended to discuss the transition, which was an open table discussion. We will now formulise a sub group for the transition and there is a paper available on the LINK Website – **Action:** to be sent to attendees - Doris requested a copy to be sent via the post.

Mental Health Action Group - AJ said with input from NH a response was prepared and sessions took place on the 5th March regarding the severe implications for people being moved to substantive and critical banding, which will potentially have an impact. Paul Tovey and the Mental Health group submitted a 22pg response which has been sent to Peter Hay. EM said he found out by local news that approx 4,100 were on the substantive banding and some may move up to critical or drop down. AJ said there was a circulation yesterday from Social Care stating £1m savings need to be made, which will have an impact and grants will be withdrawn. EM asked where the Alzheimer's café is. AJ said it is at The Mac, Sutton and QE Hospital however he was told yesterday that the funding has been withdrawn. NH said they will be letting us know.

AJ advised members you should have seen the results for elections. Core Group members have now been elected.

Future of the Groups – AJ said for those of you who were at the Core Meeting, Gateway/LINK will be in contract until 30th June and thereafter there will be skeleton staff e.g. 2 people but at present unsure who this will be. AJ said potentially we will be looked after by the council until it is procured and the process has not yet commenced. Two staff members will stay until end of August for handover and in terms of meetings

these will be facilitated until end of June. AJ said we are now looking for guidance from City Council and there is a LINK meeting tomorrow. Health and Well Being Board meeting took place in February and 10 LINK members attended. The Board will become very important but will not kick off until June/July. AJ advised health watch is terribly vague and being non-prescriptive and allowing areas to do self-determination. NH said there will be a LINK member on the group. EM said this group and other action groups will have to cease if nothing is put in place by end of June. AJ said in theory yes however would be shocked if the City Council allows it go in that way. It is very important that we maintain the mentoring and any transition period there is always bumps and bounces along the way. AJ has made recommendations to minimise the impact. NH advised everything coming out is that they will not let LINK go. AJ said from a legal point of view all Local Authorities are obliged to continue with LINK. There is £5k budget but it is not ring fenced. The council have to decide how much money they want to put into LINK/Healthwatch. EM said will they provide their own staff? NH said hopefully they will continue with LINK staff. AJ said his personal feeling is that the council will babysit for 3-4months during which time they will procure with some other organisation to take over. EM said would it be right to say after the six month contract will they agree for 3years. AJ said yes and indication is that the government are looking at health watch as a serious proposal and phasing out the old and bringing in the new, looking at lessons learnt etc. focus to maintain the active members who are the nuts and bolts of the organisation. EM asked if it is possible to have a list of the 5 GP consortiums. **Action:** AJ to send to members via email.

3. MOHAMMED SHARIF – SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT

MS thanked members for the invitation today. The aim of today is to introduce ourselves and to give a brief explanation of what the BID Service is and the process for referrals. BID Spa is funded by Supporting People and is a single point of access for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, physical disability, need in depth support within their own homes etc. NH said you are only deaf if you are born deaf after that you have a hearing impairment. SC advised the BID Spa service accept referrals from people, Social Workers, friends, family members and other professional bodies. An assessment would be undertaken to look at five core areas and once completed, this would be typed up and passed to the manager and worker allocated. Referral's can be made via phone Tel: 0121 450 5145, Email: bidspa@bid.org.uk or visit the office: Deaf Cultural Centre, Ladywood Road. B16 8SZ. MS circulated information leaflet and referral/assessment form regarding the service. Furthermore, some deaf people may use a web cam for an assessment to be undertaken depending upon the client and their method of assessment. MS discussed the five sections and what is included.

AJ asked if anyone has any questions. NH asked if anything to do with direct payments? MS said they would support the client but would not complete the forms and would be able to support the client e.g. access social worker and have an individual budget assessment undertaken. NH said would there be a charge? MS said there is no charge for their service. NH raised handyman schemes? MS said they do support the client in researching a handyman, costs, signpost etc. Age concern do small jobs small and big jobs are charged. DS asked if there is any support for someone who does not have DLA or attendance allowance. MS said we do support clients ensuring they receive the right benefits. We would also assist with completing the necessary forms, get in touch with Benefits Advice line etc. LO asked about signposting people would you actually put a stair lift in a house? MS said they would support the client to have an Occupational Therapy assessment. TS said in relation to people with disabilities if there living at home supported by carers would that exclude them from support? MS said no and gave an example where support would be provided. LO raised she had heard about the service when someone called the LINK however not all the community are aware of this service. MS said that's why we are here today and has done several events to promote the service. EM said is this for people of a certain age? MS said from age 16 years upwards. EM said do you cover older adults in general? MS said as

long as they have a disability e.g. mental health, physical, hard of hearing or visual impairment. NH raised reassessments of people with dementia - do you have any facility for acting as an advocate for them? MS said as long as they have one of those disabilities as a primary then we would support them. NH thanked MS for attending. **Action:** LO to send poster regarding Dementia Day to BID Spa.

4. **Any Other Business**

Correspondence

AJ said Cllr Anderson did write back to us and put in Press Release two months ago. NH said we have written to Peter Hay regarding closure of Shard End who responded advising they have lost the correspondence and will be replying shortly. AJ reported that the Shared End Group had their council grant withdrawn.

AJ advised BVSC have done analysis of cuts on third sector within Birmingham and shortfalls will be for people on substantial payments and there is an ongoing process to identify the defects.

AJ said UHB Group is holding a Working Together Patient Support Day on 10th March at 10.00 a.m. for those who can attend. There will be 20 groups and reps from QHB in total attending.

NH raised Connect Magazine is being published and if anyone has any contributions, articles, pictures etc will be issued beginning of May. AJ has suggested having a directory of different support groups to contribute and all dates are on the internet.

AJ is awaiting clarification and concerned about the closure of potential dementia cafes due to funding being withdrawn. As soon as confirmation is received we shall write a suitable letter. KB said how long would these cuts last for? AJ said City Council did a press release few days ago regarding the budget. NH raised third sector bids and it was decided to do on a yearly basis. AJ said a lot of groups have lost their funding today and will not be able to reapply until 31st March 2011.

5. **CARE HOME VISITS PROGRAM UPDATE**

LO advised the project commenced to ascertain the level of activities within care homes and find out residents views and feedback to make recommendations of any changes. LO asked a series of ten questions and spoke to 5 residents at each care home. LO has visited 7 care homes e.g. Ann Marie House, Norman Powell Centre, Mary St. Balsall Health, Sunshine Edgbaston, New Oscott Village, Olivia Care Home in Acocks Green and West House. LO planned to visit 10 care homes by mid-March however experienced some problems due to care homes closing. AJ said Enter and View will be visiting the Oaklands Home in Moseley. DS said is there any idea when we might be going? LO confirmed her colleague George Kingsley has sent out a weekly update. **Action:** LO to send to the group and if anyone interested to let LO know. DS asked if there was any feedback regarding the visit at Queen Mother Gardens, Harborne? **Action:** LO to re-visit? This was an "enter and view" issue? It will depend if they will allow us to revisit and it will be on activities and not on "enter and view" so it will have a complete different result/agenda. LO has requested to visit 3 care homes so she has her complete 10 now.

6. **WORKPLAN AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

a). Dementia Awareness Day Update

AJ said LIVES Interrupted posters have been circulated. Final Alzheimer's meeting took place yesterday with arranged speakers and a full programme. LO discussed the full agenda for 22nd March event taking place at the MAC. TS said when he received the poster he sent a copy to all the carers. DS advised she has an operation on that day and depending on how she feels she may not attend. LO advised the event will be video and put onto the website. NH said if no one wishes to be photographed they will need to inform LO. LO will put a sign on the stand if anyone has any objections to let

the video man know. EM asked if it is possible to have a CD copied of the event. LO confirmed she will need to liaise with Marketing and Communication Officer, however it should be fine.

7. OPAG LEAFLET UPDATE – INPUT

AJ said we have tried to give the LINK some corporate ID and have pulled together some posters for each group, which allows us to physically advertise the next meetings and put up on Library notice boards etc. EM said will we have those by the next meeting? AJ said they will be circulated.

KB advised he received his CRB last week.

Action: DS sends her apologies for the next meeting since she will be on holiday.

EM confirmed he had emailed Turves Green Housing 21 Complex as a suggested venue for the next meeting. **Action:** copy to be sent to all members.

DS would like to inform the group that she has been invited to a meeting at Moseley Hall Hospital on 28th March. EM said they are looking at their structure and how they will move forward with Public Action Group.

NH thanked everyone for attending and future meeting dates will be confirmed.

8. NEXT OPAG MEETING – 6th April 2011, 2 – 4pm

AJ said some Older Persons Reference Groups clash with these meetings so Avid will send an updated calendar.