

BIRMINGHAM LINKS – OLDER PERSONS ACTION GROUP
Minutes from Meeting held on Wednesday 6th April 2011
(2.00 – 4.00 p.m.) at Highfield Hall Community Centre, 127-129 Highfield Road,
Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 0HS

PRESENT:

- Norman Howell MBE (NH) Chair
- Peter College (PC)
- Audrey Hamilton (AH) (Freshwinds)
- Jocelyn Tennant (JT)
- Alan Beards (AB) (Freshwinds)
- Samantha Botterill (SB) (Freshwinds)

FACILITATORS PRESENT:

- Andrew John (AJ) – Gateway Family Services
- Linda Onerhime (LO) Gateway Family Services
- Siobhan Garrattley (SG) – Gateway Family Services (Minute Taker)

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

- Adib Quasim (AQ)
- Edwin Martin (EM)
- Mike Tye (MT)

1. INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGISES/SIGNING IN SHEET

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 8th MARCH 2011

a) Accuracy

All agreed that the minutes were a true record.

b) Matters Arising

Healthwatch

AJ updated group on the meeting held on Saturday 2nd April and confirmed that the notes of the meeting had been distributed. He explained that a further meeting had been arranged for Saturday 9th April, 10 – 12noon at The Saffron Centre to further discuss healthwatch, but the general consensus from the previous meeting had been that LINK will put forward to become a pathfinder. AJ commented that the Healthwatch transition paper had come out and was on the Birmingham LINK website.

Mental Health Action Group

AJ explained that we are currently awaiting a response from the Alzheimer's Society in relation to the withdrawing of funding for Dementia Cafes.

Future of Groups

AJ explained that we are still waiting to hear from City Council but currently a handover is being prepared for the City Council. AJ explained that the money for healthwatch will not be ring fenced and £51m needs to be saved within health and social care within the first year.

3. ALAN BEARDS – B SAGE (FRESHWINDS)

AB gave a brief update on B Sage and explained that the project is part of Freshwinds and was funded by BEN PCT until December 2010 but since December with the present funding crisis Freshwinds are actively seeking new funding to establish the future of the project. He explained that the project is for older people within Birmingham who are 55+ and identify with any following issues: Living with long term health condition, a disability, experiencing social isolation, difficulty with personal safety and independence and issues around debt and financial issues. He explained that due to the current funding crisis, they have decided to fund the project themselves and it will be operational for at least the next 6 months. AJ offered to put details of B Sage on Birmingham LINK website for information.

ACTION: Host to put details of B Sage on website for information

4. **Any Other Business**

Correspondence

AJ informed the group that a response had now been received from Peter Hay of Birmingham City Council responding to the letter NH sent asking about the costing for Quickheart website and why it was done externally. The letter briefly explained the reasons for it being done externally and gave the costing's as £108,000 for what has currently being produced and the total for it to be fully implanted would be £700,000.

1234 number

NH mentioned that this number is no longer being used solely for older adults but for all adults now. AB commented that he feels the service is excellent but you may have to wait a while to speak with someone. ***AJ suggested a letter be written to Cllr Sue Anderson??***

AB said he would be interested to see how many older people send enquiries via the internet.

Shard End Pensioners Club

AJ briefly explained to the group that funding has been withdrawn for the pensioners club, and that a letter had been written to Peter Hay to ask why and if there were any more pensioners club that would have funding withdrawn. Cllr Cotton has also written to Peter Hay regarding this and a response is to be received.

GP Consortia's

AJ commented that a list of GP consortia's were attached with papers of the meeting for information. He explained that he is hoping to start to arrange meetings with some of them with NH shortly.

AB offered to look to see if Freshwinds could host next meeting on 17th May

ACTION:

- Host to speak with Alan Beards and confirm venue for next meeting

5. **CARE HOME VISITS PROGRAM UPDATE**

LO explained the purpose of the Care Home visits and that she has now visited 9 homes within the 3 PCT's. She explained that a report would be completed and submitted to BCC and that the report would be available for the next OPAG meeting in May.

ACTION:

- Care Home Visits Report to be available for May meeting

6. **WORKPLAN AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

a). Dementia Awareness Day

LO updated the group on the Dementia Day that took place on 22nd March at The Mac. She explained that they had worked in conjunction with Alzheimer's Society and that it was a successful event. A copy of the presentation will be attached with the draft minutes

ACTION:

- Copy of presentation to be attached with draft minutes for information

7. **OPAG LEAFLET UPDATE – INPUT**

AJ explained that this has now been produced and that previously the group had a generic leaflet but the group felt it would be better to have a more specific leaflet for each group.

ACTION:

- Copy of leaflet to be sent to group members for information.

NH thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

8. NEXT OPAG MEETING –

Tuesday 17th May 2011, 2.00pm – 4.00pm (Venue TBC)