

BIRMINGHAM LINKS – OLDER PERSONS ACTION GROUP

Minutes from Meeting held on Tuesday 17th May 2011

(2.00 – 4.15 p.m.) at Acocks Green Library, Shirley Road

Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 7XH

PRESENT:

- Norman Howell MBE(NH)
- Mike Tye (MT)
- Edwin Martin (EW)
- Jocelyn Tennant (JT)
- Peter Colledge (PC)
- Adib Qassim (AQ)
- Katherine Day (KD)
- Doris Spiers (DS)

FACILITATORS PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

- Alan Beards (AB)
- Jean Kendell (JK)
- Janis Deakin (JD)

1. INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

- 1.1 AJ welcomed everyone to the meeting and discussed housekeeping rules.
- 1.2 Introductions were made.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 6TH APRIL 2011

- 2.1 Accuracy – agreed the minutes were a true record.
- 2.2 Matters Arising
HealthWatch/Pathfinder Update – AJ provided an update for those who do not know both Paul Tovey and Elsie Gayle met with the City Council on 6th May 2011 to present the proposal for the current LINK to become a Pathfinder and developing best practice when HealthWatch is implemented. The outcome was that the City Council have decided against formally applying for Pathfinder status in Birmingham however they are keen to use the work that both Paul/Elsie have done. The proposal is to have a “Round Table” discussion as the basis with the view of meetings continuing.
- 2.3 NH raised they are tendering for a new host. AJ said it was highlighted this morning with the City Council and LINK Advisory Group what should happened between July – August period however no reply has been received as yet as they are discussing this with their Legal Department regarding their obligations to provide facilities for LINK.

- 2.4 NH raised the issues of funding in respect of Action Groups. AJ said this is a good point since there needs to be some form of continuity and it will be a shame to lose the momentum. Furthermore, AJ advised that CL (Senior Administrator) has done some rough costings regarding hire of rooms and secretarial support, which is still being explored.
- 2.5 AJ reported regarding the Host tendering position, a specification will go out on 7th June via the website to everyone with the view of having a host organisation providing support from 1st Oct 2011 to 1st July 2012 however not sure to what degree the contract will look like and will likely be more of a maintenance contract however this is yet to be confirmed as discussions are still underway between Procurement and City Council.
- 2.6 NH suggested members contacted their own Councillors to see if they can influence what will happen to LINK in the future. All agreed.
- 2.7 Mental Health Action Group – AJ reported we are awaiting confirmation from Alzheimer's regarding funding as we are trying to maintain the funding for Mental Health Cafes (x12) and Advocacy Service. EM raised MHAG Meeting is due to be held **Wednesday 18th May, 12.15 at Radclyffe House** if anyone wishes to attend.
- 2.8 Care Home Visits Program Update - EM reported Saxon Court in Longbridge is now up and running in Turves Green and suggested as a venue to explore.
- 2.8 OPAG Leaflet/Poster – copies cascaded to all present. AJ said it was important to form some individual profile for each group to ensure continuity and tailored for each group. Furthermore, the format will allow for any future organisation to alter name/contacts, which is straight forward for them to do.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.1 Transport – information circulated regarding special needs transport. If interested please contact: Mike Hughes (Tel: 0121 353 7650 or mike.1947@btinternet.com) who is arranging a meeting between Centro and Bus Providers as he is currently looking for interest.
- 3.2 Arts Project Wheels in Motion – information circulated providing details regarding painting/drawing, poetry/prose/music/performance if anyone is interested to contact Tracy on **Tel: 07412 745 793** or email: wheelsinmotion2011@hotmail.co.uk or facebook: http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_180030275382078 for further details.

- 3.3 Consultation Meeting Search Team—information circulated. Social Care & Health to save a significant amount of money and City Council undertook 80 different consultation meetings, which was thorough however potential impact and therefore received update from Mike Ewins regarding the shift from the criteria for qualifying/assistance. The move to critical banding from substantial however there has been some legal challenge and City Council have reverted back to the critical/substantial model. The focus is on withdrawing services and reinvesting into the Third Sector. AQ said the idea is to set up a Social Enterprise to pilot one of five in the country to try to have a social enterprise in order to remove bureaucracy that social workers currently face when providing their service and reduce red-tape, costs etc.
- 3.4 AJ gave an update regarding Birmingham Solihull Cluster in 2013 the PCT will be demolished and therefore formally become a cluster arrangement. To prepare for that eventuality and opportunity AJ has asked for LINK members to have a presentation so they can understand the process and is awaiting confirmation from PCTs.
- 3.5 AJ reported Consortiums is still fairly fluid in Birmingham since there are currently 10 and Consortiums are still applying within Birmingham. It is important to develop those contacts and to maintain contact with them as LINK/HealthWatch will continue to develop and will pass information on as and when received. NH asked if it was appropriate for a member from OPAG to contact one of them. AJ said yes and try to embed LINK/HealthWatch into that process and any conversations would not be wasted.

Action: Host to set up meeting with one of the GP Consortium leads e.g. Dr. Harding was a suggestion.

4. CARE HOME VISITS REPORT

- 4.1 LO circulated the draft Care Home Visits Report and gave detailed feedback.
- 4.2 LO visited 9 different Care Homes within Birmingham across the three PCT areas to ensure there were a wide variety of private and voluntary homes covered.
- 4.3 LO reported the summary of key issues: 40% of residents stated a disability would prevent them getting involved in activities, 82% of residents were offered physical activities and 91% were offered outdoor activities.
- 4.4 Questions/comments
MT said the report was very comprehensive and members found the findings very interesting. MT asked if any pictures were taken. LO confirmed no photos were taken. MT suggested having a way to cascade the feedback by having a short 2-3 minute compilation about the visits. LO said she would let MT if this was possible. NH congratulated LO on completing the report.

4.5 AJ advised the report will be presented to City Council, Commissioning and Care Homes who took part in order to provide them with feedback.

4.6 LO reported the final report will be circulated at the next meeting and comments welcome.

5. DEMENTIA AWARENESS FEEDBACK

5.1 LO circulated the Dementia Awareness Report following the “Lives Interrupted” Event held at Cannon Hill Park on 22nd March 2011, which was discussed in detail.

5.2 NH said he was pleasantly surprised by pg.6 in particular and asked if LO received the information she required. LO confirmed the majority said yes and it was a successful and productive event.

5.3 NH asked if a copy of the report could be sent to the Editor of Alzheimer’s Magazine with a covering letter.

Action: LO to send a copy to Editor.

5.4 MT reported he spent the day compiling the documentary and agreed to send the link to LO so it can be uploaded onto the LINK Website.Website.

Action: video link to be emailed to OPAG members/put on website.

6. OPAG LEAFLET UPDATE

6.1 As per previous discussion above.

7. SILVER SURFERS DAY

7.1 Information circulated confirming dates for Spring on Line if members wish to attend. This is a good opportunity for those who are interested to form communication links.

7.2 MT reported he had spoken to Raj Rattu who has a facility in Lozells and confirmed he is happy for members to use the facility.

7.3 AJ discussed blogs such as Facebook, Twitter etc which LINK/HealthWatch can encourage Consortiums to get involved and given training is not difficult to set up. MHAG have already set up a Weblog, which is very comprehensive and is available on the LINK website. Furthermore, array of Libraries also offer basic internet free training.

Action: OPAG members to receive details and confirm if interested in attending Raj’s facility and if so, Raj to be informed of dates.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 DS raised community LINKs Team is due to present an Arthritis day. Information circulated to all present.

Action: information to be uploaded onto the LINK website.

8.2 DS circulated information regarding “Hands off The Winter Fuel”.

Action: information to be uploaded onto the LINK website.

8.3 AJ reported this is LO’s last meeting who will be moving onto pastures new. Members asked for their thanks to be recorded thanking LO for all her hard work and support.

9. NEXT OPAG MEETING

9.1 Discussion took place regarding the next OPAG due to be held Tuesday 28th June 2011. Suggested bringing this forward a week, all agreed.

9.2 Provisionally the next OPAG Meeting to be held: Wednesday 22nd June 2011. However it was raised that this may clash with MHAG so may be altered. Therefore, host to confirm full details.

9.10 suggested venue(s): Freshwinds, Kings Heath Park or Turves Green.