



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Minutes

Title of Meeting	Older People's Partnership Board
Date/Time	Thursday 27 June 2024 @ 12:30pm
Venue	In person – Committee Room 1, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford

No	Item	Action
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>SW opened the meeting and introduced himself as chair for this meeting, on behalf of Mark Harris, who is currently on annual leave. SW welcomed attendees to the meeting.</p> <p>Introductions were made and noted. Apologies were also noted.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of last meeting held on 14 March 2024</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>The previous actions were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Recruitment to the Board – MH had advised that some enquiries have already been received and will feedback on the board's recruitment following distribution of the leaflets at the next meeting.</i> MH advised in advance of the meeting that unfortunately none of the interest received has resulted in actual new members of the board as yet, however happy to discuss next steps at the meeting including sending the leaflets and producing posters for GP surgeries etc if required.</li><li>- <i>Request to discuss a portfolio of areas to focus on for future agenda items –</i> This would be discussed during today's meeting.</li><li>- <i>Nikki Harris had advised that she had been contacted by a carer, who was looking for some information on the transition into caring and was unable to find the information on the Council's website. MH agreed to take this back and discuss possible improvements with Maura Noone (Chief Officer, Practice, Standards, Strategy and Quality).</i> It was advised that a more general item about information on the council website has been added to the OPPB agenda for September meeting, where Maura Noone will attend to discuss.</li></ul>	
3	<p>Hidden Harm - Your Voice</p> <p>SW advised that unfortunately Barbara Grell has had to send her apologies to the meeting due to illness. This item will be deferred to another meeting.</p> <p>It was then agreed to use today's meeting to have a wider discussion around future agenda item planning and areas of interest and priority.</p>	
4	Future items for discussion / addition to agendas	

The Co Chair (Wilf) presented a list of potential future agenda items, which had been collated previously and could be standing areas of interest. The areas are as follows:

Support facilities for people with dementia and their carer's  
Social isolation of older people in urban and rural environments  
Home visits and possible adverse effect of carer's time allocation  
Alcohol abuse and impact on physical and mental health  
Diabetes in older people  
Obesity in older people  
Impact of the Health Strategic and Transformation Plan on older people  
Pharmacies and older people  
Transport issues for older people, including things like pedestrian crossings etc.  
Older persons poverty issues  
Public facilities as they impact older people e.g. benches, lighting, signposting etc  
Keeping older people fit  
Anti social behaviour including scams  
How to remain independent  
Care homes and affordability  
Employment opportunities for older people  
Education opportunities including council facilities, REC, U of 3rd Age etc  
National campaigns on behalf of older people.

These topics could be included within some standing heading items such as:

- Health
- Transport
- Housing Inc care homes
- Poverty in older people
- Protection
- Leisure and education
- Things that affect older people particularly, for example falls, on set of dementia etc.

Wilf then added a list of those organisations/parties whereby it would be beneficial for them to attend the board's going forward, if they don't already attend, to ensure discussions are meaningful:

- Age UK
- Healthwatch
- Carers in Bedfordshire (*in attendance*)
- Alzeimers Society
- Future East
- East of England Ambulances
- Bedfordshire Police
- BCCG (now ICB)
- CQC
- MP for Bedford
- Portfolio Holder (*in attendance*)

<p>SW thanked Wilf for his valuable input and believes it would be useful to prioritise the items in order of which topics to discuss first and going forward. A forward plan could then be produced for agenda planning for the next 12 months.</p> <p>Wilf then added that the work and discussions undertaken at this board is really useful and can benefit the older people of the town, ie previously successful initiative to change bus stop steps to ensure they are more accessible for older people.</p> <p>Paulette added that she believes there is a big problem relating to robberies in the town centre, whereby older people are being targeted. We want to know what the police are doing about these incidents. Paulette requested for the Police to be invited to attend a future board to discuss an item on community safety. This could also include scams and smashed windows in town centre. <b>Action: SW to include this item in the forward plan.</b></p> <p>Paulette also mentioned an issue with large council bins being placed in some disabled car parking spaces in the town centre. <b>Action: SW will take this away and ensure this is fed back to the appropriate team and rectified.</b> Whilst discussing bins/waste, Nikki (Carers in Beds) passed on a comment from a resident from Wixams Retirement Centre that there aren't enough bins there to cater for the number of residents.</p> <p>Nicola and Teresa attended the meeting from the Extra Care Team within BPHA and wanted to raise awareness and promote their extra care schemes/services, to ensure that people don't just think going into a care home is their only option. The Extra Care scheme provides housing for those who no longer want to live in their own homes and would like some further support but do not require care home support. It also provides an option for those who would like to move to live closer to family as they get older. Nicola and Teresa left some leaflets for attendees to take away with them, providing some further information. They also advised that generally their schemes are open to all over 55's and all of the older person community are welcome to attend their coffee morning's and socialisation events, not just those who are residents.</p> <p>BPHA colleagues mentioned that Bedfordshire Police currently carry out presentations on fraud prevention, in relation to community safety, which may be really useful for the board to receive further information in this regard. Nikki (Carers in Beds) also mentioned that Age UK can provide a presentation on scams/fraud awareness.</p> <p>Kuldip commented that we need to have a full agenda to keep attendees engaged and momentum going. Also need to have action from the board, not just talking and no progression or resolution. We need to ensure we are able to contribute and benefit from this board.</p> <p>Wilf said this goes back to recruitment of older people to the board and the need to do more in this regard. SW said historically, an annual report was produced to show discussions had at the board and outcomes and achievements each year. This is something that could be revisited.</p> <p>Martin (CVS) said we could add an item on 'what does voluntary sector for older people look like' as a later item on the agenda planning at the end of the year. This could include what the position currently looks like, what is currently available in this regard and where the gaps are, or gaps in the knowledge of everyone.</p> <p>Nikki (Carers in Beds) also provided a list of possible areas of concern for older people/carers in the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finding housing for people with disabilities / accessible housing</li> <li>- Cost of living / food banks / fresh food / health – food bank demand is increasing and position isn't improving. Martin (CVS) also said CVS have a directory of food providers in Bedford Borough, including food banks and hot food outlets and will send the link to RF – link as follows:  <a href="https://www.cvsbeds.org.uk/foodprovidersinbedfordborough">https://www.cvsbeds.org.uk/foodprovidersinbedfordborough</a></li> <li>- Transport – isolated places/areas</li> </ul>	<p>SW</p> <p>SW</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mediation for elderly person's families, carers and dynamics between families</li> <li>- GP appointment access and annual health checks</li> <li>- Carers ignoring own health to care for elderly person – feel there may need to be a change in carers assessment process</li> </ul> <p>David Oldham (Connelly Foundation) – said these discussions have been really useful and advised that the charity have identified five areas where charities should be using their funding to support older people in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loneliness and isolation</li> <li>- Transport – contribution towards Sharnbrook initiative</li> <li>- End of life care – history of this and continue to support</li> <li>- Health promotion – in terms of keeping people active</li> <li>- Access to IT – where it enables access to benefits (also addressing poverty issues)</li> </ul> <p>Following discussion, the board agreed that there is a need to identify key areas where organisations can lead on presentation of information to board on specific areas and then take away and progress and feedback to the board. <b>It was agreed that SW will take away the items, group them together for relevance and programme in the items for future meetings for the next 12 months.</b></p>	SW
5	<p>AOB</p> <p>SW raised 'over a brew', which is taking place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July between 12;30-2pm online, and involves an invitation to join a conversation on co-production. The idea behind it is getting the real voices of individuals to focus on what's missing, discussion, ideas in order to improve people's experience. Further information and a link to book a place will be sent out with the minutes. SW asked all attendees/outlets to encourage people to attend to contribute.</p> <p>SW thanked all for attending.</p>	
6	Date of next meeting – 12 September 2024 at 11:00am	All