



# Minutes

Title of Meeting	Older People's Partnership Board
Date/Time	Thursday 13 March 2025 @ 11:00am
Venue	In person – Committee Room 2, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford

No	Item	Action
1	Welcome MH welcomed all to the meeting. MH highlighted that there had been a request to attend the board virtually (online). MH asked the board for their thoughts and if they would like to continue to hold these meetings in-person only. The board agreed to continue to hold the meetings in person, and not offer virtual attendance.	
	Attendance from: Mark Harris – CO for Adult Operational Services & Co Chair Ashok Khandelwal – Healthwatch Wilf Deakin – Member of OPPB Karina James – Age UK Cllr Robert Rigby – Adult Services Portfolio Holder Tara Adams-Cook – Community Safety, BBC Laura Fuller – Community Safety, BBC Theresa Williams – BPHA Paulette Rennie – Member of OPPB Kuldip Rupra – Member of OPPB Neil Khandke – Friends for Life Martin Trinder – CVS Sarah Pearson – ICB, Place Team Katie Ellis – BRCC Ruby Fairley – Business Management Support, BBC (minutes)  Apologies received from: Jodi Simpson – BBC Louise Wragg – ELFT David Oldham – Connolly Foundation	

2	<p>Minutes of last meeting held on 12 December 2024</p> <p>The following points were highlighted in the previous meeting's minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kuldip advised that an attendee name should be corrected – to change from David Connolly to David Oldham. RF would make this change.</li> <li>- <i>A member of staff from the Transport Team attended previously to discuss bus services and would provide a contact email address for anybody to report related issues</i> - The email contact to us is: <a href="mailto:Businfo@bedford.gov.uk">Businfo@bedford.gov.uk</a></li> <li>- <i>Friends for Life would provide some information on their work around loneliness</i> – it was confirmed that this was actioned after the last meeting.</li> <li>- <i>Terms of Reference</i> – MH will share the historic version during the meeting.</li> <li>- <i>Rubbish/mess outside previous post office site – MH had agreed to speak to the Chief Officer for environment</i> - MH will follow up with this. Paulette added that the bins everywhere are overflowing and dirty. Also people putting things out like tables and chairs that are not considerate of pedestrians and those using wheelchairs/pushchairs. Paulette is keen for people to take pride in making the town look nice. <b>Action: MH will ask Paul Pace to make contact with Paulette to discuss issues further.</b></li> </ul>	MH
3	<p>Community Safety</p> <p>Tara Adams-Cook and Laura Fuller attended from the Community Safety Team at Bedford Borough, to discuss the team's role in tackling crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and increasing perceptions about safety and well-being in our communities.</p> <p>Tara and Laura presented some slides to provide more information on what the community safety team do. The slides will be circulated with the minutes.</p> <p>The following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meet the team – the roles within the team were presented.</li> <li>- Day to day duties involve ASB Cases &amp; joint working with Police and RSL, Safeguarding, Knowledge Sharing, Pro-Active Work, Community Engagement.</li> <li>- They also attend fortnightly meetings with the Community Policing Team, BBC Temporary Accommodation Team, Housing and RSL'S, as well as informal catch ups. The team are always looking for new ways of engaging with people, which helps with team's intelligence.</li> <li>- CCTV coverage in Bedford – Around 300+ monitors in the town and wider areas which are operating 24/7. The team receive a weekly report relating to incidents.</li> <li>- Paulette raised a query if somebody is seen on camera doing graffiti – Laura said there are areas of concern around the town, which are monitored more frequently. If there is a report from a member of the public, who has witnessed the graffiti, the control room can look back and pass this information on to the police if criminal damage has taken place. If there is no criminal damage, this would be passed to the environmental enforcement officers.</li> <li>- Wilf asked if cameras are moved to hotspot areas if they change. Tara and Laura said there are deployable cameras, which can be requested to focus on specific areas if there is a known issue. This request would go through a board with evidence as to why a camera is needed in this area.</li> <li>- A Joint Action Group (JAG) takes place frequently, involving the Police, Council, Fire Services and occasionally councillors, which is a good information sharing opportunity between partners.</li> <li>- Contextual Safeguarding &amp; Tasking - The Vision of Bedford Borough CSP is Tackling crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and increasing perceptions about safety and well-being in our communities. The team deal with the threat, risk and harm to local communities and local people, identifying and safeguarding vulnerable individuals through collaborative problem solving.</li> <li>- Latest scams – The team are urging the public to stay vigilant and warn elderly relatives or neighbours against scammers impersonating police officers. The public should always check credentials of the person to confirm their validity.</li> <li>- Another example is courier fraud, where the public are approached and asked to withdraw large sums of money. In Bedfordshire, one victim recently lost £13,000, and another lost £48,000 as a result of scams. The suspects are telling people that there are individuals in police custody who are cloning their bank details, and therefore are asked to move their money to a secure account. This is false information and should not be acted on. Tara reiterated that nobody from the Police or anywhere would be asking for your bank details and/or pin.</li> <li>- The best place to report anything like this is via the Police or Action Fraud. Tara believes would be good for Action Fraud to attend a future board to give further information.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tara and Laura shared the link to information on the council's website within the slides, as well as an email contact, whereby a case can be logged, allocated and responded to. The email address is <a href="mailto:Communitysafety@bedford.gov.uk">Communitysafety@bedford.gov.uk</a></li> <li>- Kate (BRCC) said they have a number of frontline roles who would benefit from working with the team to strengthen this. Tara/Laura asked Kate to make contact using the email contact to discuss further.</li> <li>- Martin (CVS) asked about target hardening – Tara said this may sit with the Police, however the community safety team can also help in some areas. Martin will discuss via email with Tara/Laura.</li> <li>- MH thanked Tara and Laura for attending and providing some really useful information.</li> </ul>	
4	<p>A discussion about end of life care with the view to arranging a presentation for a future meeting</p> <p>MH believes it may be best for ICB to lead on this item at a future board. Sarah (ICB) agreed with this and can take this back to look at what information would be good to share to a future board. <b>Action: Sarah (ICB) to confirm information to be shared at a future OPPB.</b></p>	SP
5	<p>Expressions of interest in becoming the co-chair</p> <p>MH wanted to place on record his thanks to Wilf, who has decided to step down as co-chair of the Board. MH thanked Wilf for all of his work to support to board. Wilf will continue to be a board member.</p> <p>MH asked if there is any interest from board members to take on the role as co-chair. No interest was received at the current time.</p> <p>MH advised at the last meeting, there were some discussions around increasing interest and membership for the board. Therefore, MH and Cllr Rigby will be attending the first WI meeting and are hopeful to bring forward some new board members following this. MH asked if the board are happy to wait to see outcome of this or if something else needs to be done now. MH said it would be good to increase and expand the board to all adults, including those with physical disabilities. MH asked what members aspirations are for the board and discuss. The following comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Neil (Friends for life) asked what the overall objectives are for the board. It has previously been discussed to bring some themes to the board. Neil said if the scope was widened, this could result in reducing the impact overall. It would be good to have some significant themes that the board can work to deliver on, to show achievements and that the board is following up on points. This would help to bring people in.</li> <li>- Kuldip said if it is wisely done, there is scope for rationalisation and improvement.</li> <li>- Kate (BRCC) commented that this is linked to the Terms of Reference and stating what we are here to achieve, and build from that, to see how it fits with other pieces of work.</li> <li>- MH said the ToR need a refresh to be updated and link into with other strategies already in place ie Health and Wellbeing strategy. MH said at the moment, there is no strict age limit for people to attend and perhaps we could keep the existing board name but encourage opening the gates to encourage others to attend.</li> <li>- Paulette said community groups use to attend this board and would be good to include people from community groups. Also include individuals who work in communities.</li> <li>- Cllr Rigby commented it would be good to identify organisations to highlight that the OPPB exists and invite them to be part of the board.</li> <li>- Ashok (Healthwatch) said all of the issues for advance aged people should be discussed here and taken back and shared with the organisations who attend, so that the information can be shared with clients that the organisations work with.</li> <li>- Kate (BRCC) commented that we have to be really clear about what we are offering and the objective of the board, and who this board is for.</li> <li>- Wilf said who will be getting the benefit from the board.</li> <li>- Sarah (ICB) echoed the thoughts above and said we need to clear about what we are here to do as a board. There are lots of strategies that exist, and a lot that would impact on older people.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kate said there is the HWB strategy in place, which works across all groups, but OPPB is the only forum for older people within the Borough. Kate commented that Central Bedfordshire Council have an OPPB, chaired by Stuart Mitchelmore, which works well and acts as a spotlight to promote council services that support older people specifically. <b>Action: MH agreed to speak with Stuart to look at what is done at CBC and what Bedford Borough could do similar.</b></li> </ul>	MH
6	<p>Terms of Reference</p> <p><b>Action: Following discussion above, MH will work with Public Health colleagues to link the Terms of Reference to other workstreams and strategies already in place. This can then be discussed at the next meeting.</b></p> <p><b>MH asked all board members to email Ruby at <a href="mailto:bms0.adults@bedford.gov.uk">bms0.adults@bedford.gov.uk</a> with details of any relevant groups/contacts that aren't currently members of the board but that could add value, including any community groups they believe should attend. It was also requested if it would be possible for a list of existing organisations who are invited to attend the board is shared so that the board are aware of who is already invited.</b></p> <p>The following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wilf commented that the board needs to make clear what have been successes of this board in the past. To promote achievements of board, to increase interest and membership.</li> <li>- Ashok (Healthwatch) said it would be useful to list issues that effect older people so that working groups can be established in the areas needed. Ashok believes that the Board is not there to do the things, it is there to ensure things are happening in the other working groups. MH agreed with this.</li> <li>- MH also mentioned the work of Public Health around population and differences in life expectancy in geographical areas, which MH can discuss further with Public Health colleagues so that the board receives an update on what has been happening. Paulette agreed that she would like to see what is being done in the community around this. <b>Action: MH to ask Public Health colleagues to attend the next board to present an update on this, and what is being done based on the findings of previous work they have undertaken.</b></li> <li>- Neil (Friends from life) commented that it would be good to start with the ToR, and think of inputs and outputs; what outputs would we want to see happen ie create networking opportunities, information dissemination, then we can think of what inputs are needed to produce the outputs. This would give the board the information needed as to which professionals need to be involved.</li> <li>- It was then summarised that the board need to expand older people attendance, as well as number of professionals and organisations.</li> <li>- David Lynch was in attendance and agreed to present at the next board.</li> <li>- The Terms of Reference would also be considered at the next meeting, with updates linking to other strategies.</li> </ul>	<p>MH</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>MH</p>
7	<p>Forthcoming WI meeting</p> <p>As above.</p>	
8	<p>AOB – nothing further to add.</p>	
9	<p>Date of next meeting – 19 June 2025 at 11:00am</p>	