

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

10.15am 18 JUNE 2013

JUBILEE LIBRARY JUBILEE STREET BRIGHTON BN1 1GE. TEL: 01273 - 290800

MINUTES

Present: Jack Hazelgrove (Chair), Francis Tonks, Mike Bojczuk, Val Brown, John Eyles, Harry Steer and Colin Vincent

Co-opted Members: Penny Morley

Others Present: Councillor Geoffrey Bowden, Jessica Sumner - Age UK Brighton & Hove, Sue Howley - Pensioner Action.

PART ONE

24. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

24.1 The Chair Jack Hazelgrove welcomed everyone to the meeting including members of the public, Jessica Sumner new CEO of Age UK (Brighton & Hove), Sue Howley of Pensioner Action and speakers Libby Young, CVSF Operations Manager/Interim Healthwatch Manager, Dr Peter Wilkinson, Deputy Director of Public Health, and Giles Rossington Acting Head of Scrutiny.

25. HEALTHWATCH

25.1 Libby Young, CVSF Operations Manager and Interim Healthwatch Manager outlined Healthwatch, the new health watchdog for local people: what it is, and what it does. Leaflets and Healthwatch magazine were circulated and full details are on the website.

www.healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk

25.2 A shadow board for Healthwatch will be set up in the autumn with the intention of full governing arrangements being established by April 2014. Healthwatch will

1. Obtain the views of people about local health and care services, and make those views known to those involved in commissioning, providing and monitoring health and care services
2. Promote and enable the involvement of local people in the commissioning and provision of local health and care services and how they are monitored
3. Recommend investigation or special review of services, either via Healthwatch England, or directly to the Care Quality Commission

4. Provide advice, signposting and information to the public about accessing health and care services and help them to make informed choices about which services to use
5. Write reports and make recommendations about how health and care services could or should be improved and ask for responses from providers
6. Play a role in the preparation of the statutory Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies on which local commissioning decisions will be made
7. Provide an Independent Complaints Advocacy Service which empowers anyone who wishes to resolve a complaint about healthcare commissioned and/or provided by the NHS in England

25.3 Healthwatch has organised a public meeting at the Audrey Emerton Building, Royal Sussex County Hospital at 6pm - 8pm on 2 July to talk about its Hospital project. The project is looking to improve Accident & Emergency Services as well as develop Healthwatch's own approach to its work. Members of the public are welcome to attend and get involved.

25.4 Libby Young answered questions on:

Building on existing experience from setting up the former Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) and the implications for Brighton & Hove of the recent Francis Report into care provided by Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

The formal constitution and independence of Healthwatch.

Monitoring improvements, following feedback via Healthwatch.

The role of OPC re; Healthwatch and who are Healthwatch responsible to?

25.5 The Chair Jack Hazelgrove thanked the speaker for her useful information.

26. PUBLIC HEALTH

26.1 Dr Wilkinson gave an update on Public Health and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (presentation attached).

26.2 Answering questions he said the resources allocated to the Council for the recently transferred Public Health responsibilities were reasonable.

26.3 Dr Wilkinson explained the process for producing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. He outlined the reasons for the selection of the five priority public health issues for the Strategy. He said the JSNA is kept updated and a full refresh would be considered in due course.

26.4 Dr Wilkinson was asked about age limits for the national programme of free health checks (stated to be from age 40 to age 74) and agreed to provide more information on reasons for the age limits.

26.5 The content, phrasing and tone of standard letters to service users was queried, and whether letters could be more clear and concise and more appropriately worded.

26.6 The Acting Head of Scrutiny Giles Rossington said that the new independent tenant scrutiny panel had agreed to review the Council's communications with council tenants and leaseholders, relating to the housing service.

26.7 It was pointed out that families often do not know the connections between health services and local authority services; do not know where to go for help and advice on available options.

26.8 The Chair thanked the speakers for their useful information.

27. BREAK

28. MINUTES

28.1 The record of attendees at 21 May OPC meeting was amended to include Jessica Sumner and Sue Howley.

28.2 It was clarified at para 3, section 12 that the Local Authority is required to ensure that pay and allowances are non-discriminatory.

28.3 At section 21 Sue Howley reported a successful celebration at People's Day of 22 years of Pensioner Action. Activities would continue, and issue number 45 of The Pensioner magazine would be published on 8th July – the last produced by Pensioner Action. Jessica Sumner told the meeting that to try to protect the publication, the Age UK Brighton & Hove board had agreed to host The Pensioner for a year, not to bear the full cost of production, and then to review the situation.

28.4 Other possible sources of future funding for The Pensioner including the private sector were suggested and potential compatibility of The Pensioner with the Healthwatch magazine was discussed. On behalf of OPC Chair would approach Healthwatch (Action: Scrutiny team)

29. OPC WORK PROGRAMME AND UPDATE

29.1 The work programme was noted and suggestions made. CV asked for an item on short-term services for people discharged from hospital, possibly for 17 September OPC meeting. (Action; scrutiny).

29.2 MB suggested a possible agenda item on falls prevention. (Action; Scrutiny)

29.3 MB said it was important for the Age-Friendly City initiative to be expedited and this needed to be a regular agenda item. Older people's views were central to the initiative and as many replies as possible were needed. He had set up an online forum which needed greater publicity. How to set a project plan should be investigated. (Action: scrutiny team).

29.4 HS suggested the Police and Crime Commissioner be asked about police powers re public demonstrations.

29.5 Members noted the importance of close working and avoiding duplication with Adult Care and Health Committee and Health and Well-Being Board. Councillor Jarrett would be asked to report back on a recent conference on Age-Friendly Cities. (Action; Scrutiny)

30. ELECTIONS INFORMATION

30.1 Regarding elections to the Older People's Council; the current agreed arrangements and costs were noted. Vacancies to OPC arising during the first two years after elections would be filled by election; and vacancies after 2 years would be filled by co-option.

30.2 One person was interested in becoming a co-opted member; they would be invited to the next meeting and meanwhile the current vacancy would be publicised on the OPC website and more widely (Action MB)

30.3 For the longer term, it was agreed to review OPC election arrangements. A practical solution as adopted in Denmark could be to elect a number of standby Members in addition to serving Members.

31. ROUND UP FROM MEMBERS

31.1 CV had been to two Healthwatch transition group meetings and was involved in the People's Day Steering Group. There was concern that a stall did not appear to have been booked; this would be investigated (Action: Scrutiny).

31.2 FT was continuing to visit and report back on hospital services. He asked about possible action re: large public demonstrations and would be pressing for an Older People's Day.

31.3 PM had attended the OPS stall at the Adult Care summit. She recommended the 'Take Part' session for older people's activities at King Alfred Leisure Centre on 27 June that had been very successful last year. Free activities would include ping-pong, tai chi; some suitable for wheelchair users. PM had joined the Age-Friendly City steering group meetings. Older people were encouraged to get in touch and give their views.

31.4 VB asked about disabled parking at Walter May House.

31.5 JE had a query on disabled access at All Saints Church. (MB as local Member to investigate)

31.6 MB reported a lot of public interest at the People's Day stall.

31.7 HS said that as Secretary of Grey Matters radio productions would be contacting Age UK Brighton & Hove and others, on increasing the use of the radio as a resource.

31.8 JH gave regular Tuesday morning broadcasts on Radio Reverb (97.2FM). MB offered to stand in for JH on a Tuesday date in July.

31.9 Councillor Geoffrey Bowden, the Councillor link for the OPC, was now on the Adult Care and Health Committee and Health and Well-Being Board. He was asking for all committee reports to include a section on implications for older people.

32. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

32. Everyone was invited to future OPC public meetings and particularly to give their views on age-friendly Brighton & Hove.

The meeting concluded at 1pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of