

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

10.15am 19 JULY 2016

ROOM 126, KING'S HOUSE, GRAND AVENUE, HOVE, BN3 2LS

MINUTES

Present: Mike Bojczuk (Chair), Colin Vincent, Penny Morley, Francis Tonks, John Eyles and Lynne Shields

Co-opted Members: Nick Goslett

PART ONE

218 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

218.1 Apologies were received from Jack Hazelgrove and Francis Tonks.

219 UPDATE ON TOWER HOUSE

219.1 Denise D'Souza (DD), Executive Director of Adult Services, presented this item.

219.2 DD told members that Tower House would shut at the end of July. Most service users have been provided with alternative services, although there will be a service delay for a couple of clients. A number of service users will have to travel further to access alternative resources. All Tower House staff have opted to take voluntary severance. The Tower House premises will be available for use by community groups, and is being marketed as such by the council's Property team.

219.3 In response to questions about transport arrangements, DD told the group that, for clients with eligible needs, travel costs will be met by Adult Social Care (ASC). However, self-funders will need to make their own travel arrangements. The council cannot afford to fund services for non-eligible clients. There is ongoing work with stakeholders to explore how additional community transport capacity might be developed, although the council has very limited funding available for such work. Where appropriate the council encourages clients to use public transport to access alternative day resources.

220 HOUSING FOR OLDER PEOPLE

220.1 This item was introduced by Peter Huntbach, BHCC Older Persons Housing Manager; and Sarah Potter, BHCC Operations Manager, Housing Adaptations/OT.

- 220.2 PH told members that coming years would see an increase in older people, and especially in those aged over 85. Although this is generally excellent news, it does have implications for all services including housing, particularly in seniors housing where a higher proportion of older people identify themselves as disabled.
- 220.3 The council houses around 900 people in dedicated senior accommodation. There is also a considerable amount of Housing Association and private sector sheltered housing in the city: in all there are probably around 3000 homes across 92 schemes. SP agreed to provide details for the main Housing Association and private providers in the city so that the OPC can contact them. **Action**
- 220.4 The Brookmead extra care development has recently been completed. This is the first new BHCC senior housing built since the 1990s. Brookmead will be jointly run by Housing and Adult Social Care and will have 24/7 on-site carers. Self-funders can also employ these carers. It will focus on dementia as this is a growing issue for the city.
- 220.5 In response to a question on market sustainability from NG, PH told members that he did not have detailed information for the private sector but this should be available from the Elderly Accommodation Counsel website. Some schemes have struggled to attract clients in recent years, particularly those designed with shared bathroom facilities hence the conversion programme in its own schemes. Many providers have moved, for cost reasons, from having on-site managers to providing floating support, although BHCC has retained scheme managers as this is what residents said they valued. The future sustainability of the sector will be heavily influenced by welfare changes – for example the mooted inclusion of supported accommodation in the Local Housing Allowance calculations represents a major risk as this would mean that Housing Benefit was no longer sufficient to cover rental costs which tend to be higher in the supported housing sector due to additional staffing required.
- 220.6 In reply to a question from CV on the potential for senior housing to offer an alternative to residential care, particularly for people coming out of hospital, PH told members that senior housing could sometimes offer an alternative housing option for this client group. However, there is currently no very rapid access to senior housing places, meaning that it is not always a ready option for people coming out of acute hospital beds. More could be done to streamline access here. More generally, senior housing does not currently provide the very high levels of support that many people in residential care require. Levels of support could be increased, but this would increase costs also and this would need to be funded. There may be some potential to attract Better Care Fund money for this. Given that senior housing is many times cheaper than residential care, commissioners will need to think creatively about how the increasing demand for supported housing in the city is going to be met going forward.
- 220.7 PH told members that there is increasing demand for supported housing, not just for the frail elderly, but for groups such as over 65s with alcohol or substance misuse issues. There is currently very little appropriate housing for this group. Providers also need to think about how LGBT friendly they are.
- 220.8 The Chair asked what would happen to generalist senior housing provision if there was to be a significant growth in the use of senior housing stock to support people with complex health and care needs. The OPC has campaigned for more dedicated housing

for older people, but the current iteration of the City Plan includes very little. SP noted that the city Housing Strategy sought to increase the supply of private sector, Housing Association and Council housing in the city, and to ensure that new housing was adaptable and therefore suitable for the needs of an ageing population (e.g. a high percentage of new builds must be wheelchair accessible).

220.9 SP explained that, as a service, Adaptations is now focused on working more holistically, ensuring that expenditure on adaptations is used effectively. For example, there is work ongoing to engage proactively with clients to help them plan their own future housing needs at an early stage. The aim here is to reduce the need for major adaptations, particularly those that are required at short notice. Other work is aimed at potentially undertaking more adaptations where there is a 'spend to save' argument to do so: e.g. where an adaptation will reduce the risk of someone falling and requiring expensive health and social care input.

220.10 SP told members that BHCC has an Adaptations Framework of specialist contractors for adaptations in council homes, funded through the Housing Revenue Account. In the private housing sector (private rented, owner-occupied and housing association tenants) disabled facilities grant (DFG) is available, subject to a means test, to help toward the cost of adaptations and grant applicants typically had to employ their own builders. However, the BHCC framework generally offers better value for money, and now over 65% of private sector, grant assisted work goes through the BHCC framework providers to deliver better value for grant.

220.11 SP told members that the Adaptations service is advertised on-line and via leaflets aimed both at council and private tenants. Examples of the leaflets will be circulated to OPC members.

221 MINUTES

221.1 The minutes of the 21 June 2016 meeting were approved as an accurate record.

222 OPC WORK PROGRAMME

222.1 Members noted that there was an OPC officer meeting on 09 August at Brighthelm.

222.2 It was also noted that the September OPC meeting would be the Annual General Meeting.

222.3 In terms of future work programme items, members suggested that they needed an update on the entire local NHS system, including primary care, acute care and ambulance services. The OPC also needed to know about the progress of health and social care integration plans and about the Better Care Fund.

222.4 For the October OPC meeting it was agreed that the speakers invited should be: Graham Bartlett (independent Chair of the Brighton & Hove Children's Safeguarding and Adult Safeguarding Boards) to talk about safeguarding; and Gail Shanahan (Community Works) to talk about elder abuse.

222.5 For the November meeting it was agreed that invitations should be sent to Dr Carl Walker (University of Brighton – health user survey) and to Jane MacDonald (BHCC) to give an update on contracts.

222.6 The Chair told members that he would write to the Chief Executive of BHCC and to the Head of Democratic Services to clarify how much the OPC budget was and whether it could be held directly by the OPC. Lynne Shields added that it was impossible to act as OPC Treasurer without clarity around this.

222.7 Lynne Shields told the group that the annual report was well in hand, with the text almost ready. The next stage was to discuss print and design with the internal BHCC team and to get a quote for designing and printing the Report. Giles Rossington offered to facilitate a meeting with Design & Print in advance of the August OPC meeting.

223 SECRETARY'S UPDATE

223.1 Penny Morley presented her update:

SECRETARIAL REPORT - JULY 2016

Fairness Commission - The report of the FC was launched on the 27th June and OPC officers attended. There are a number of recommendations re older people & our submissions are referred to in the text. They call for a revised Action Plan by April 2007 for the Age Friendly City project. Also Brighton & Hove to be fully accessible by 2020. The recommendations go to the Communities & Equality Committee for implementation. **Suggest OPC contact Chair, Councillor Emma Daniel to discuss recommendations re older people.**

Tower House - OPC wrote to Head of ASC on 22nd June subsequent to a visit to TH. Raised issues re Friendship groups & Transport, Advocacy & Links to Council for future support and the Future of Tower House. Replied received confirming BHCC aim to support people in friendship groups - Ralli Hall - 10 people, Wayfield Avenue - 7 people, Shared Lives Day Share - 3 people & Barford Court- 9 people and Somerset Day Centre 3 people. Transport talks with Community Transport.

DDS to attend July meeting with final update before closure.

Older People's Festival - 28th September to 7th October rather than just one day. Impact have contract to deliver festival. Met with OPC officers on 27th June to discuss OPC participation. OPC to have inter-generational debate/s with Youth Council/School. Dorothy Stringer school is keen & Impetus is proposing Andrew Wealls as Chair with topic "have the older generation left the younger generation in debt". One event at Dorothy Stringer on 27th September and further possible at Hop 50+.

CCG Event - A public meeting was held on the 30th June to discuss the NHS Sustainability & Transformation Plan. Meeting attended by a number of OPC members and it was agreed that community engagement needed to improve. An engagement plan to be drawn up. OPC members spoke about GP shortages, Patient Transport, Hospital problems & capacity and inter-relationship with ASC. Also update from CCG received on Community Short Term Beds Service with contract slippage to award now December 2016 and start date in April 2017.

Meeting with BHCC Leader Councillor Warren Morgan - Meeting was held on the 1st July. Also attended Peter Huntbach Housing & Brian Doughty ASC. A note of the meeting has been circulated covering a range of issues of concern to OPC including Tower House, Commissioning, HOSC, Home Care, Hospital Appointments system, GP services, Housing issues & Fairness Commission, Merger of ASC & Public Health, Age Friendly City Forum & Link Councillor for OPC.

Age Friendly City Forum - Support raised with Age UK & BHCC to be pursued. A meeting of the Forum for 18th July at 10.30 at Hop 50+. Lynne has circulated members and we will update forum members on Steering group meetings re Mental Health, & Sexual Health & get feedback about way forward.

HWBB - A number of OPC members attended the meeting on the 12th July. Action on Elder Abuse was mentioned and the failure of the hospital & the need for improvements by 30th August. Dr Carl Walker of Brighton University presented results of survey of 1,300 Brighton & Hove people re views on NHS. Overwhelmingly against privatisation of NHS. Wanted HWBB to take account of local views & view of NHS supported by Chair of CCG. Fees for Care Homes discussed & rates agreed going to £543 & £656 for care home with nursing. Shortage of beds for public funded places as private funders paying far more. Carers & HIV funding discussed, the latter having a reduced budget by £103,000.

LAT Meeting - Attended London Road LAT on 12th July. Police attended with B&H priorities outlined and the need for partnership working re homeless on London Road. Community Safety officer (Jonathan Ridley) attended and circulated contacts for complaints about anti-social behaviour. Contact with Patcham LAT now renamed Patcham Community Action Team.
Pursue re OPC co-option given lack of Patcham representation?

Age Friendly City Steering Group - Minutes of the June meeting circulated & Chair put Age UK paper on Mental Health provision for older people in Brighton & Hove on OPC website. Confirms many of OPC issues re better communications with older people. The next meeting will be on the 8th September looking at Older People and Work.

Public Toilets - wrote to Councillor Mitchell raising a number of issues re legal case, Portslade trains & station & Pavilion Gardens state of toilets and she replied confirming that we will get a full response.

OPC Annual Report - note to members requesting their 200 words by Friday 15th July. Drafted a generic update on the aims & objectives of OPC as amended last year and our priorities re Budget, Adult Social Care, Fairness Commission & Health with actions taken and results achieved. Lynne to co-ordinate report with Design & Print liaison & budget information needed with Scrutiny officer help.

**Discuss
 Invitations**

- **Active Forever** - two week festival of events including 28th June for Older People at the King Alfred.
- **Action on Elder Abuse** - circulated a petition re elder abuse. Lynne has met with co-ordinator and suggest invitation to a forthcoming OPC in October to **discuss**. Carly Snead contact on 0208 8359294

- **Know my Neighbour** - Partnership meeting on 13th July at 3.00 at One Church, Gloucester Place.
- **CCG** - wrote to OPC re nomination for Procurement of IAPT & Well Being service. Seeking a 65+ person. The OPC have nominated Vice-Chair & member of HOSC, Colin Vincent & await a response.
- **Self Health project** - Brighton & Hove have a range of organisations providing free courses between May & July. Details circulated and around 250 learners have completed courses to date.
- **Age UK** - Could your MP be an Age Champion - Parliamentary event on the 11th July for MPs that are Age Champions.
- **Brighton & Hove Sexually Transmitted Infections** - Testing week beginning of July organised by Terence Higgins Trust at 61 Ship Street 01273-764200. Further information on www.tht.org.uk/brightontests. Brighton & Hove have one of the highest STI rates in the UK.
- **CCG** - Meeting on the 26th July at 12.00 Brighthelm to an informal question & answer session. The CCG are deciding whether to take on responsibility for commissioning of local GP practices in late 2016.
- **PPGs** - Lynne made contact with Friends of Woodingdean Surgery & suggests OPC officers meeting with them. **Discuss**
- **Housing Letters** - Lynne had message from John Hadman re letters from Council Credit Team being threatening & disturbing for those with mental health problems. **Seeking support from OPC to challenge them & call for re-write.**
- **Brighton & Hove Food Partnership** - Dementia Friendly Gardening Project at The Garden House, 5 Warleigh Road on Tuesdays from 10.30 to 12.00. Sessions for people with mild to moderate dementia & details circulated.
- **City Plan Part Two Scoping Document** - The consultation on Part Two runs from the 30 June to 22nd September and the Council has issued a quick guide to the document identifying the 12 topics with a number of questions. The housing target is for 13,200 new homes by 2030. The areas covered are Housing, Economy & Employment, Retail & Town Centre use, Tourism, Transport & Travel, Biodiversity & Open Spaces, Pollution, water & energy resources, Design, Heritage, Community Facilities, Student accommodation, Traveller accommodation. Virtually every area of interest across the City! **Discuss**
- **Adult Social Care Inquiry - House of Commons Communities & Local Government Parliamentary Committee** - they have issued a call for evidence whether funding for social care is sufficient, role of carers & alternative financing & providing care. **Submissions by 19th August. Discuss**

Newsletters

- **NPC Campaign Bulletin** - covers the need for intergenerational solidarity. This is particularly important in the face of the EU referendum result. Age UK have a blog which was circulated by Chair which showed 73% of 18 to 24 year olds voted to Remain whereas only 40% of those over 65 did so.
- **HealthWatch** - Press release re CCQ inspection of Royal Sussex County Hospital and their input into process. CQC have issued a Warning Notice to hospital and improvement must be made by 30th August.

223.2 Members discussed the proposed topic for the joint OPC and Youth Council event, but decided that it was too negative and that the Youth Council should be asked to suggest an alternative topic.

223.3 The Chair told members that he had attended meetings of the Brighton & Hove Digital Inclusion Group and that the Group was keen to run events for older people. LS suggested that a different term than 'digital inclusion' was used as it was not well understood.

223.4 Penny Morley told members that there had been a meeting with Cllr Morgan, the BHCC Leaders. Cllr Morgan has been asked to find a link member to work with the OPC.

223.5 PM broached the subject of the possible co-option of Patcham LAT onto the OPC. Members supported this idea and PM will contact the IAT representative.

223.6 Members agreed that a response to the City Plan consultation should be discussed at the 09 August officer meeting, as should a potential response to the Government enquiry into adult social care.

223.7 Members agreed that the Chair should write to Cllr Emma Daniel regarding Age Friendly Cities.

224 MEMBERS' UPDATE

224.1 Update from Mike Bojczuk:

- Attended Brighton Online partners meeting and Digital Festival planning meetings to put forward / arrange events for older people.
- Sheltered Housing Group meeting to listen to issues raised and discuss gadget and internet events.
- Attended Fairness Commission report launch and Take Part activities at King Alfred centre.
- Attended self-funded London meetings - South East England Forum on Ageing, Age UK London digital workshop
- CCG public meeting and with John Childs.

224.1 Update from Nick Goslett:

- Helped to organise the Hangleton & Knoll 50+ Tea Dance at which 70 came and had a very jolly time with dancing, tea, sandwiches and delicious cakes
- Organised a 50-person trip to the Loxwood Canal for the H&K 50+ people

225 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

225.1 There was none.

The meeting concluded at 1pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of