



**AGEWELL SANDWELL
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Minutes of Agewell Sandwell meeting held Wednesday 16th July 2008 at the Wesley Centre, Springhead, Wednesbury.

Present

John Allen (Chair)	Edna Barker
Bob Cohen	Ann Chawner
Mavis Hughes	Doris Strange
Gurcharan Singh Sidhu	Dorothy Nemedi
Peter Gospel	Alan Jones
John Cope	Joan Smith
Ivy Hodgkinson	Dot Gospel
Jinder Ubhi	Tony Mallam
Mike Babb	Ken Hickman
Bob Patel	

In attendance:

Jayne Salter-Scott (JSS) – PPI Manager
 Deborah Davies(DD) - Agewell Manager
 Lisa Jacob (LJ) – Community Development Worker
 Geraldine Child (GC) - Community Development Worker
 Stuart Munger (SM) - Community Development Worker
 Maggie Turner (MT) – Older People’s Champion
 Karen Owen (KO) – Older People’s Champion
 Jannet Allen (JA) – Minute Taker

<u>Agenda Item</u>	Action
<p>1. Welcome, introduction and apologies</p> <p>1.1 The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>1.2 Thanks and congratulations were given to Gurcharan Singh Sidhu for a wonderful job as Mayor of Sandwell over the last 2 years.</p> <p>1.3 Congratulations were also given to Tony Slater for receiving an OBE for Services to Older People in the West Midlands.</p> <p>1.4 Apologies received from Eveline Pearson, Sandra Tyrrell,</p>	

<p>Nora Marshall, Ralph Perkins, Jaswant Singh Bansal, Tony Salter and Pauline Hodgetts.</p>	
<p>2. To confirm the minutes from last meeting, Wednesday 21st May 2008</p> <p>Peter Gospel did attend the May meeting. Minutes were accepted.</p>	
<p>3. Matters and actions arising from the last meeting</p> <p>3.1 Page 1 Item 3.1 – Visit to Extra Care Housing Scheme a member requested an update. GC has emailed Chris Guest, who is the manager of the scheme and is awaiting dates.</p> <p>3.2 Page 3 Item 6 – JA has sent an email requesting more information about the Valuing Age and Experience Network she awaiting a response.</p> <p>3.3 Page 5 Item 12.1 line 6 text amended to read ‘they would not be able to be Chair’.</p>	<p>GC to arrange visit.</p>
<p>At the meeting item 5 was brought forward before item 4 however for consistency the minutes will reflect the order given on the agenda for the meeting.</p>	
<p>4. Strategic Plan for Sandwell Primary Care Trust (PCT).</p> <p>4.1 Richard Young – Head of Commissioning at Sandwell PCT, due to a technical hitch Richard was unable to show the intended presentation. Members decided that they would instead have an informal discussion.</p> <p>4.1.1 Richard explained that the PCT is currently developing a Strategic Plan. The Plan will set out the PCTs Strategic Goals for the next 5 years and will include 8 – 10 priorities that will fundamentally change people’s health. The PCT Professional Executive Committee will be meeting on the 24th July to start to look at, and draw up a list of potential priorities. To identify 8 of these key priorities the PCT has been and will continue to hold meetings/sessions with stakeholders until the 28th August. The PCT will be coming to each of the August Agewell Forums to discuss these priorities and will ask attendees to put forward their top 8. Agewell Sandwell members agreed that the Agewell Forums should be opened up to all local people so that views could be heard from across the board.</p>	

4.1.2 An indepth discussion took place around GP surgeries and the lack of a consistent approach, attitude and service offered. Issues raised by members included:

- Not enough time allocated for appointments
- Appointments not available
- Patients are left on hold on telephone for too long (50 minutes in one instance)
- Patients do not always understand what Doctors tell them
- Receptionists are overworked and stressed
- Attitudes of staff are not always pleasant
- Doctors have too much time off/do not work enough hours
- Immigration into area is putting more pressure on Doctors
- Doctors will not visit people in their own homes
- Cannot get own Doctor to visit out of hours

Richard agreed that the PCT needs to organise itself better and that a change is needed in the way some people work. However, it is a patients responsibility to say to their Doctor/nurse 'I do not understand'. More Doctors are needed in Sandwell this will alleviate the pressure on overworked surgeries and will also allow surgeries to extend their opening times. Improvements are being made already to some surgeries with new accommodation, polyclinics are also opening which combine all service ie Doctors, minor surgery units and opticians.

Richard told members that the Diabeties Service has now been moved out of the hospital and into the community. The majority of attendees did not know this and there was a general feeling that the PCT needs to make improvements to the way it communicates and informs the general public about services.

Members thanked Richard for attending and requested that Richard returns to a future Agewell Sandwell meeting to report on what changes have happened.

5. Agewell Conference 2008

5.1 The International Day for Older People is on the 1st October 2008, and there will be a large open event to celebrate this at the Public called Full of Life. Agewell will be supporting this event with staff members helping on the day and all Agewell members invited to attend. It will be a drop in session open from 10am until 4pm.

Flyer attached

<p>5.2 The Agewell Manager explained that last year Agewell held 6 mini conferences one in each of the 6 towns, however due to financial and time restraints we would be unable to do that again this year. The Agewell Manager proposed that this year we instead go back to the old format of one larger Agewell Conference. A new venue was put forward for the conference – The Salvation Army Centre in Cradley Heath, this was supported by members as long as transport is provided to the venue. A letter will be sent out to Agewell Sandwell members requesting volunteers for the Conference Planning Group.</p>	<p>Letter requesting volunteers to be sent out to members.</p>
<p>6. Agewell Sandwell Shopping List/Hit List.</p> <p>6.1 It was agreed at the last Agewell Sandwell meeting that we should compile and Agewell Hit List. The list will reflect the issues/concerns raised within the Agewell Forums and will show who has been contacted about the issue and any progress or obstacles. The Agewell Manager has requested that staff update the Hit List regularly. The Hit List will feed into the Agewell Business Plan to highlight our priority areas of work.</p>	<p>Agewell Staff to update Hit List regularly.</p>
<p>7. Agewell Sandwell Awayday</p> <p>7.1 The Agewell Sandwell Awayday will now be held on the 4th August at Sandwell Valley Park Farm. Please ring the office if you require transport.</p>	<p>Letter will be sent out to members.</p>
<p>8. Agewell Town Forum Reports.</p> <p>Due to time constraints there were no comments on reports.</p>	
<p>9. Agewell Sandwell Members Reports.</p> <p>Due to time constraints there were no comments on reports.</p>	
<p>10. Agewell Staff Reports.</p> <p>10.1 Page 6 – a member felt that the information given in the report was misleading. Policy Issues – this was not a Centro decision. Black Country Councils together decided that they would not put in congestion charges.</p>	

11. AOB

11.1 Flyer about ENT services sent out with papers, please let either Jannet or Lisa know if you are interested.

11.2 There is a possibility of office space for Agewell at Vision Point in Tividale.

11.3 The Chair reported that the new hospital should be built by July 2015, it will employ over 5000 people and will have 700 beds available.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th September 2008 AT THE PREMIER HOTEL, HIGH STREET, WEST BROMWICH. PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO ATTEND IF YOU REQUIRE TRANSPORT PLEASE LET THE AGEWELL OFFICE KNOW BY NO LATER THAN MONDAY 15TH September 2008.