



AGEWELL SANDWELL MINUTES OF MEETING

Minutes of Agewell Sandwell meeting held Wednesday 21 November 2007 at Brook Street Community Centre, Brook Street, Tipton.

Present

John Allen MBE (chairing)	Ralph Perkins
Edna Barker	Jean Jenks
John Cope	Margaret Everson
Alan Jones	Tony Salter
Mavis Hughes	Bob Patel
Ivy Hodgkinson	Dorothy Nemedi
Jean Counley	Dot Gospel
Jinder Ubhi	Joan Read
Doris Strange	Joan Smith
John Nicklin	Mike Babb

In attendance:

Jayne Salter-Scott – PPI Manager
Pauline Everitt – Agewell Manager
Geraldine Child – Community Development Worker
Maggie Turner – Older People's Champion
Jannet Allen – Minute Taker

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received from Evelyn Pearson, Victoria Adebisi, Vera Carey, Sandra Tyrrell, Peter Gospel, Bob Cohen, Nora Marshall, Stuart Munger, Lisa Jacobs

2. To confirm the minutes from last meeting, Wednesday 19 September 2007.

Minutes were approved.

3. Matters and actions arising from the last meeting

3.1 Page 2 Item 2.1 – No response received from Liz Mabley.

3.2 Page 3 Item 5.2 - The 3 newly elected representatives are Tipton – Bob Patel, Oldbury – Margaret Everson and Rowley Regis – Evelyn Pearson.

3.3 Page 2 Item 5.1 – Edna Barker was elected by postal vote to be Vice-Chair of the Later Life Partnership Board.

4. Modernisation of Adult Services.

4.1 The Agewell Manager has received a response to her letter to Iain Bainbridge which she read out to members. Concern was raised that the response from Iain was not circulated in time and that the response is not dated and signed. The Agewell Manager had also invited Councillor Darren Cooper to attend this meeting however he has given his apologies. Felicity Bennett, Chloe Roberts and Tony Armeda from Adult and Community Services attended the meeting to inform and consult Agewell members on plans to reduce the number of council run residential homes.

4.2 Sandwell Councils' (SMBC) formal consultation period will finish on the 29th November 2007 a report will then go to SMBC members cabinet on the 12th December 2007 they will have the final decision. SMBC proposes to shut four of the nine current residential care homes. **The council will focus on improving and specialising care and staff in the five remaining care homes.**

4.3 A team has been established to gather views from current residents, carers and relatives. The closure of the four care homes will mean that ninety residents will need to be re-housed either in the remaining five care homes, extra care homes or private residential homes. SMBC are not in a position at the moment to comment on where the residents will be re-housed as each individual will need to be reassessed, Tony however assured members that that the provision/quality of care that residents will receive either from SMBC or privately will be of the same standard if not higher than what they are already receiving. The cost to residents will be no higher than what they are already paying.

4.4 Members concerns/issues included:

Moving people out of their homes without a new home to go to, will people have to be moved more than once.

More needs to be done to support people in their own homes so they do not have to go into residential care.

The distress caused by the move especially to residents but also to carers, families, staff etc.

Residents views may not be heard, interviews need to be with families but also with residents on their own conducted by their peers so that they feel comfortable and able to confide their true feelings. Some older people maybe afraid to comment or make a complaint, as they fear it will be 'taken out on them'.

What will happen to staff, will skills and experience will be lost.

Older people should have been involved in the initial stage of setting the proposals.

4.5 Tony thanked members for their comments and time. He reiterated that no decision had been made by SMBC; the cabinet will make the decision on the 12th December.

5. Local Involvement Network (LINKs)

5.1 Dot Gospel reported back in Jayne Salter-Scott's absence. Dot circulated a paper to members, which outlined the transition from Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forums to Local Involvement Networks (LINKs). Dot informed members that this had been brought to the Agewell Sandwell meeting as an opportunity to become a prominent voice in LINKs.

5.2 Members proposed that there should be a formal Agewell representative on the LINK. Dot informed members that LINKs are still in their early stages, SMBC are looking for a host organisation that will compile the terms of reference etc for LINKs. Dot has attended the 2 initial meetings were a work plan for LINKs has been put together. **ACTION** – Agewell Manager to speak to Alan Dean regarding Agewell representatives.

6. Agewell Terms of Reference (TOR)

6.1 The Agewell Manager informed members that some changes have been made to the TOR these are the change from the Older People's Strategic Planning Group (OPSPG) to Later Life Partnership, the election of BGOP representatives and the AGM election process timescale. A member informed attendees that the TOR cannot be accepted at a regular meeting, they can only be proposed. Formal acceptance of TOR can only happen at an AGM. **After discussion it was decided by vote to propose to accept the changes to the TOR, and to formally accept the TOR at the AGM in March. It was also agreed that the TOR will need to be revisited.**

ACTION – TOR to be formally accepted at the AGM in March 2008.

7. Feedback on Table Top Discussion at September meeting.

7.1 The Agewell Manager informed members that a response has not yet been received from the Assisted Wheelie Bin Scheme.

ACTION – Agewell Manager to chase.

7.2 The Agewell Manager asked members if they would agree to attend an extra meeting to be held on the 19th December 2007 to discuss with key members of staff the Housing Strategy for Sandwell. The Majority of members agreed to this on condition that the Housing Department hire the venue, provide refreshments and a buffet lunch.

ACTION – Agewell Manager will contact Housing to make arrangements.

8. Town Forum Report Back

8.1 Members reported that the Wednesbury forum is very well attended and is very enjoyable.

8.2 A Rowley Regis member raised concern about public transport changes in Rowley Regis and the proposed cancellation of the 239 route. The member told members that Councillors first heard about this change through the local newspaper. These concerns were also raised at the Public Transport Users Forum in November, the response received was a bit dismissive, and assumption by transport providers is to 'take it or leave it'. The Rowley Regis Agewell Local forum is currently trying to arrange for a Centro

representative to attend a forum meeting.

8.3 An Oldbury forum representative invited all Agewell Sandwell members to attend their meeting on the 6th December 2007 as a representative from Sandwell Libraries is attending to consult on plans for the future.

9. Agewell Sandwell Members Reports.

9.1 Better Government for Older People (BGOP) will be holding a conference some time next year, which Agewell will receive an invite to.

9.2 A member requested that a representative from Travel West Midlands should attend a future meeting to inform members about the changes to the Travel pass received by older people.

ACTION – A representative to be invited to a future meeting.

9.2 The Agewell Manager asked for a volunteer to attend future Housing Improvement Agency meeting. The volunteer would need to be a homeowner and the meetings will be held every 2 months. Ralph Perkins volunteered.

10. Staff Reports

10.1 The Agewell Manger informed members that there was to be two new Older People's Champions. One was due to commence work last week but has unfortunately had to withdraw at the last moment. The second applicant will hopefully come into post next week.

12. AOB

12.1 The Chair reminded members about the Housing meeting on the 19th December 2007, and wished all members a very happy Christmas and New Year.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY 2008 AT THE DOROTHY PARKES CENTRE, CHURCH ROAD, SMETHWICK. PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO ATTEND IF YOU REQUIRE TRANSPORT PLEASE LET THE

**AGEWELL OFFICE KNOW BY NO LATER THAN MONDAY 14
JANUARY 2008.**