



## **Voluntary and Community Sector Older People's Network**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Older People's Network is to provide a forum for information and support, for groups and individuals in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector, working with older people.

This will be achieved by:

- Providing opportunities for the voluntary and community sector to communicate, network, debate and share information about issues of local and national importance.
- Coordinating and raising the profile of older people's groups in the voluntary sector.
- Sustaining and developing the capacity of the voluntary and community sector.

#### **Membership and Structure**

- Membership of the forum is open to any voluntary and community sector organisation with an interest and commitment to older people.
- The Network will have a minimum of 3 meetings a year, meeting with other 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector theme forums as appropriate.
- Membership should reflect the diversity of the sector and the communities they represent in Dorset.
- A representative from Dorset Community Action will Chair the meetings, with vice chair support from Age Concern Dorchester.
- There is one vote per organisation. In the event of a split, the Chair will have the casting vote. The Chair has the authority to ask for decisions to be put to the wider Network membership (one vote per organisation), in exceptional circumstances.
- Dorset Community Action will be responsible for coordinating the network and maintaining the database.

#### **Principles**

- Members will champion older people's issues.
- The group will have an understanding of local and national older people's policies and initiatives.
- Equality of opportunity will be promoted.
- Diversity and difference will be recognized and celebrated.
- The views of all network members will be respected and listened to.

- At all times the forum will seek to give a voice to the communities and groups they represent.
- Confidentiality will be respected.

### **Conflict of interest**

If a member is aware of an issue where a conflict of interest may arise, this should be declared.

### **Review**

The Terms of Reference of this Group will be reviewed annually.