

VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR OLDER PEOPLE'S NETWORK

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2009, CLaRC, Wimborne

Present:

Anna Biley	DCA Partnership Development Officer
Maria Jacobson	WRVS Home Library Service
Fiona Kent-Ledger	Dorset POPP
Jill Suffling	Christchurch Over 50s Forum
Lynn Kenchington	Anchor Staying Put
John Yonwin	Age Concern Dorchester (Fit as a Fiddle)
Ann Kirkpatrick	NORDOP
Chris Topp	Dorset Advocacy
Jo Mitchard	Dorset POPP
Jonathan Holyhead	Dorset Blind Association
Carol Pavely	Tax Help for Older People
Dawn Jones	Dorset POPP Community Leader

Apologies:

Gill Gould	WRVS
Hillary Foggo	Age Concern
Anne Bray	LiNKs
Trevor Ayling	Swanage Area Senior Forum
Wendy Hilton	Age Concern
Gill Penwell	Carers for Weymouth
Jill Bryant	Dorset POPP
Julian English	Dorset POPP
Sue Warr	Dorset POPP
Anna Lovell	Bridport Area Older Peoples Forum
Jane Gould	Shaftesbury & District Fiftyplus

<p>1. Welcome and Introduction Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.</p>	ACTION
<p>2. Apologies Apologies were recorded as above.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of last meeting The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record.</p>	

<p>3:1 Matters arising</p> <p>Item 4 LK confirmed that David Rubick is Agency manager for Anchor Staying Put in East Dorset, North Dorset, Christchurch, Purbeck and Weymouth & Portland. Caroline Walker Monroe is deputy manager in Weymouth and Portland.</p>	
<p>4(a). Defining the purpose and way forward for the Network</p> <p>AMB summarised the discussions from the previous meeting and based on this, presented a diagram with a proposal for a way forward for the network (attached).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LINK – AK and JS expressed concern that the purpose of LINK is still unclear, that there is no information coming out of LINK and people are still confused about how to join. It was agreed that the Network should continue to be informed about LINK but it should not feature as a key part of the group at this stage. • JH commented that the proposed model still involved a lot of duplication. JS stated that Senior Forums and the Dorset Age Partnership are kept up to date with the progress of the Transforming Social Care agenda, POPP's and the Ageing Well strategy and to have these as a main focus for the group would again be duplicating information and workload. • Everyone agreed that the purpose of the group MUST be to continue as a network for voluntary sector groups. The strength lies in mutual support and information sharing. Small groups need to be able to make connections with other people, to know what other groups are doing and where they can get information and support. FKL suggested that maybe the challenge for the Network is to 'pull in' smaller groups and find out what they need. 	ACTION
<p>5. The role of the voluntary sector in the Dorset Strategic Partnership (DSP)</p> <p>AMB welcomed Colin Brady to the meeting. Colin is the Chair of Trustees at Dorset Community Action and is the 3rd Sector representative on the DSP Board. An overview of representation was given (see handout) by AMB. Colin then went on to explain that the DSP is a result of a government initiative to bring statutory organisations together to jointly plan and commission services. Members of the DSP Board include the elected leaders of the county and district councils, the chief executive of NHS Dorset, senior police and fire service personnel and an elected voluntary sector representative.</p> <p>Colin is an interim 3rd Sector Representative. His role is to represent all 3rd Sector organisations. Although he has no authority to make decisions (unlike other Board members), his role is to be a voice for the sector.</p>	ACTION

The DSP have produced the 'Shaping our Future' Community Strategy for Dorset 2007-2016. This highlights the key issues for the DSP and sets targets for how to deal with them. To do this, there are 10 DSP theme groups: safer communities; children and young people; older people (Dorset Age Partnership); thriving communities (looks at how we can help small, local communities); culture; health and well being; economy; housing; sustainability and environment and the Olympic legacy.

The DSP Board is independently chaired and meets 4 times a year when it receives information from each theme group. It is also an opportunity for Board members to network. The DSP Board has a responsibility for the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and to oversee the Olympic Legacy work for Dorset.

Local Area Agreement - this is a 3 year agreement between statutory partners and the government about targets to be achieved in the county. One such target was to increase the number of volunteers in Dorset. This has been achieved and was led by Dorset Volunteer Bureau. If the targets are met over 3 years there is financial reward (estimated £6 million for Dorset). Legally the County Council has responsibility for the LAA's, therefore the money goes to Dorset County Council. CB emphasised that the money is the budget for core statutory services and there is not an open 'funding pot'. Applications for funding were invited from the theme groups that met targets. This includes funding for a community transport scheme in East Dorset. JH asked if theme groups worked jointly on bids but CB did not have any detail available.

The new LAA targets for the next 3 years are currently being agreed and more information about this should be available soon.

AK commented that the Local Area Partnerships and Parish Plans don't seem to link in to the DSP and that surely all should be working towards the same aims for the people of Dorset. JS asked where Local Partnerships get a voice in the DSP. CB acknowledged that this is an area of difficulty and that the DSP is still evolving, although elected district council leaders are the representatives of their communities and should be engaging at local level. The DSP's remit is to work at county level and this does not cover specific local issues.

The group thanked Colin for 'demystifying' the DSP and for a very clear and concise explanation of his role as 3rd sector representative.

More information about the DSP and the 'Shaping Our Future' document is available on the Dorset For You website and hard copies can be collected from reception in County Hall. Board and theme group papers are also available on line via the website <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=2736>

The DSP annual meeting will take place on 9th July at The Hub, in

<p>Verwood. This is an open meeting. Details and booking information will be circulated by DCA as soon as it is available.</p>	
<p>4(b). Defining the purpose and way forward for the Network In the light of the presentation and discussion about the DSP, the debate about the purpose and future of the Older People’s Network continued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JH commented that working on joint funding bids is not without difficulty and small voluntary organisations are in reality competing for the same funds and volunteers. This element of the proposal needs further thought. • JS said that the main interest is what is happening locally and how things can be improved locally. This must be remembered when trying to get people to attend meetings. • JY would like the group to focus on networking and sharing information. • It was agreed that Network members represent their groups and organisations locally and in different ways. DSP representation is not a priority at this stage and should not be pushed by DCA. It was suggested that since the idea of representation was first introduced, attendance at Network meetings has fallen and this could be why. • IN CONCLUSION: The draft proposal was rejected. Future meetings should be interesting and informal and return to being a network. • Draft terms of reference for the group to be circulated prior to the next meeting. • Thought needs to be given to the name of the group. This has changed several times over the years and has become confusing! 	<p>ACTION</p> <p>AMB</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>6. Voluntary sector information event 30th June DCA is organising an information event on 30th at CLaRC on 30th June. Invitations are in the post and details have already been circulated via DCA information bulletins. There will be updates about the Transforming Social Care agenda, workshops on funding advice and diversity and equality in the NHS. A meeting of the 3rd Sector Sustainability and Environment will be included in the day. The afternoon will be an opportunity to meet with DSP managers in a session entitled ‘Representation: Are We Getting it Right?’</p>	<p>ACTION</p>
<p>7. Any other business None</p>	<p>ACTION</p>

<p>8. Date and venue of next meeting</p> <p>There will be an opportunity for people to meet on 30th June. The next meeting will be on 6 October 2009 at Dorchester Fire Station. JY will lead on an interactive session from the Age Concern 'Fit as a Fiddle' programme. The provisional date for the following meeting will be 19 January 2010 at Dorset Advocacy (To be confirmed)</p>	<p>ACTION</p> <p>JY/AMB</p>
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