

Northampton Borough Council

Northampton Pensioners' Forum

Thursday, 26 March 2015

Present: Cllr Brian Oldham (Councillor Co-Chair, NBC), R. Rumsey (Community Co-Chair), J. Forrest Smith (Independent), D. J. Hewitt (Independent), C. Owusu Akuffo (Pensioners Voice), H. Tuttle (Northampton Pensioners Voice), J. Rawlings (Quakers), E. Daley (Independent), Mike Hill (Pensioners Voice), Ann Timson (Spring Boroughs Residents Association), Tony Mallard (NFRA & ERA), Brian Nichols (Independent), Veronica Male (Tollers), Cllr Robin Brown (NCC), Vicki Rockall (NBC), Alice Morgan (NBC)*

*Took minutes

1. WELCOMES, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Harry Tuttle has sadly passed away. Harry was an active member of this forum and in other groups around the town and in the community. Harry will be sadly missed - the forum held a minute silence in his memory.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

DH pointed out that he did not state in the last meeting that there were 'possibly two redundancies following the transfer of staff to NPH' – this was agreed as an error in the minutes. **ACTION: AM to amend.**

The minutes were agreed as a true record, subject to the above amendment.
Matters arising:

JFS asked who is responsible for the land on Leicester Street if it is not part of the Enterprise Contact. **ACTION: AM to look into for the next meeting.**

3. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR

John Rawlings withdrew his nomination. Roger Rumsey was elected again as Community Co-Chair.

4. CLLR ROBIN BROWN - NCC HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD - NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

Cllr Brown gave an introduction about the Health and Wellbeing Board. This is an executive board, which looks at the commissioning of services, and provides an opportunity for partners to work together. There has been a significant change, in that the board expanded to include the 3 main health providers, Northamptonshire Health Foundation Trust (NHFT), Northampton General Hospital (NGH), Kettering General Hospital (KGH), and the Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) through Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire (VIN). The board is also made up of two representatives from districts and boroughs and Corby, Nene and Cambridgeshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). The board meets on a quarterly basis, and creates a joint strategic needs assessment, which is used by the commissioners on

determining their priorities and commissioning services. The board also are working on Healthier Northamptonshire – which looks at care pathways and the way they are delivered. Cllr Brown advised that care of the elderly has seen more money this year than last year.

The purpose of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy is to ensure the integration of Social Care with Health, and covers 2013-16. The strategy is available. There will be a new health and wellbeing strategy will be in place for 2016, led by the vice-chancellor of the University of Northampton. This will focus on:

1. Increasing rates of breastfeeding
2. Reduction in Childhood obesity
3. Alcohol and drugs
4. Care of the elderly in the community
5. Care of vulnerable adults.
- 6.

Questions:

TM - Are the districts and boroughs, and Northampton Partnership Homes partners?
Cllr Brown advised that they are.

DH – Asked about the future of services, and the availability of money. DH also commented on the wider effect of the NCC budget cuts, and wider cuts in the County, and how these could affect the struggles of elderly people and people in care etc. Cllr Brown assured that colleagues at NCC have not set out to dismantle services or make matters worse; all local authorities are required legally to have a balanced budget, whereas the health service is not legally charged with this.

Cllr Oldham – Commented on people being discharged in order for others to access beds, where individuals may be medically fit but not ready for discharge. Cllr Oldham also commented that at times care packages are not set up properly, and there is a vacuum after hospital release, even if only a few hours, if there is no one there to meet them at home. Cllr Brown advised that hospitals are paid based on activity, but are penalised if a person returns within a certain number of days after their discharge, and will not be paid for their care. On the issue of social care, Cllr Brown commented that is has constraints, and that a way forward would be for services to be doing more with the VCS who deliver services in the locality, to ensure people are cared for effectively.

Cllr Brown discussed that a difficulty arises with how money is put into the voluntary sector. In past, money has been given to groups without outcomes required in return. However, universal services need to be focused in a way so that everyone can access them, which is why grant funders are moving again towards giving grants for identified outcomes required.

A copy of the strategy will be circulated with the minutes. Cllr Robin Brown can be contacted on rbrown@northamptonshire.gov.uk

5. CLLR. BRIAN SARGEANT - SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATE, POVERTY IN THE TOWN

Cllr Sargeant presented the Poverty in the Town report to the forum. DH, who attends the Pensioners Forum, attended the Scrutiny Panel to give a contribution. Cllr Sargeant read out the definition used by the panel for the purposes of the report. Three of the wards that were identified as most in poverty were Castle Ward, Spencer Ward, Thorplands Ward. Figures vary, but the report found that around 1 in 4 or 1 in 5 children were in poverty. A copy of the report, and the recommendations of the group, will be circulated with the minutes.

ACTION PLANS

WW1 INTERGENERATIONAL PROJECT

Intergenerational Project – Youth Forum members have now completed their Oral History Training. We will have an identified date and will be asking people to sign up to the project at the next meeting.

7. COMMUNITY NEWS EXCHANGE

Care and Repair – Hardship fund has been topped up. This funding is available to anyone living in poverty who need work doing on their homes. For more information: call **01604 782250**, or visit <http://www.care-and-repair.org.uk/>

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Abington Street – JR commented that the signage on Abington Street is not clear, especially regarding which parking bays are specifically for disabled people, and which are for general use.

DH raised that Abington Street needs a crossing for safety of pedestrians. Cllr Oldham advised that he has raised this.

Cyclists on the footpath – a forum member asked what level of expenditure is put into policing this.

MH asked whether the Disabled Parking bays on Guildhall Road are enforceable if used for general use. MH was advised that this is a County Council issue, and can be raised with Highways

10. DATE AND VENUES OF FUTURE FORUM MEETINGS

Date of the next meeting – Thursday 16th July, 2-4pm, The Jeffrey Room

The meeting concluded at 4:00pm