

Engagement of Older people



The Dorset experience
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Dorset Association of Senior Forums

Statutory agencies contact forums regarding any proposed changes of service or new projects –

Example:

Establishing Dorset Age Partnership – Chaired by an older person – holds quarterly meetings in each district annually

Ageing Well Strategy – This involved over 3000 older people and culminated in a strategy co-written by a Local Authority officer and an older person

Dorset Association of Senior Forums

Some activities of forum members include involvement in groups dealing with:

- ❖ Transforming Social Care
- ❖ Dignity, Privacy & Respect
- ❖ Equality & Diversity
- ❖ Housing issues e.g. sheltered, extra care and home improvement agencies

(Chaired by an older person)

- ❖ Transport issues
- ❖ Connecting Health and Social Care



Dorset POPP

- ❖ A Steering Group comprising all partners from the statutory and voluntary services was developed with forum members
- ❖ Advertised for Manager older people involved in short listing applicants, marking applicants presentations, sitting on selection board at final interviews and appointment of this post.
- ❖ Other staff e.g. Community Development Workers were appointed with full involvement of older people.
- ❖ Dorset POPP Board comprising Director of Adult & Community Services, Chief Executive of NHS Dorset, a representative of the third sector and **FOUR** older people was established, giving the majority vote to older people.



Dorset POPP

Community Commissioning Fund £50,000 annually

- ❖ Over 250 projects initiated by local older people have been pump primed from this fund
- ❖ Decisions for this funding are made by older people through the Exchange Group
- ❖ Involved in commissioning & monitoring the Champions, Wayfinders & Evaluation parts of the programme



Dorset POPP

8 desired outcomes have been identified with full involvement of older people

That older people ...

- ❖ **...have housing suitable for individual needs**
- ❖ **...are socially integrated and not isolated**
- ❖ **...are making a positive contribution and experiencing fulfilment as a result**
- ❖ **...feel secure and safe**
- ❖ **...feel free from discrimination**
- ❖ **...feel financially secure**
- ❖ **...are in good health in mind and body**
- ❖ **...have dignity, choice and control throughout their life, especially towards the end**