

Ageing and Housing: Older People's Housing Champions National Network Meeting

Notes of national network meeting 12 March 2014

Brunswick room, Commonwealth Hall, University of London WC1 9EB

PRESENT

Vera Bolter (chair), Peter Coeling, Terry Sullivan, Tony Watts, Bill Rollinson, John Welham, John Simmons, Julia Pride

IN ATTENDANCE

Sue Adams, Jane Minter from Care & Repair England

APOLOGIES

Anne Bailey

Item	Discussion and action agreed
1. and 2. Welcome and apologies	Apologies were received from Anne Bailey.
3. Minutes	Minutes of the meeting on 14 October 2013 were agreed as a correct record with the addition of Julia Pride in the apologies and an amendment from NW to NE on Page 2.
4. Matters Arising	Page1, Item 5: It was noted that the DCLG were deciding on which external agency would undertake research and policy on ageing and housing for them. This would delay any planned event on housing. <i>Jane agreed to let the group know once the contract had been let and Sue will assess how the network might feed into the work</i>
5. Local and national action in housing	<p>E Midlands/Derbyshire An interagency group has been set up reporting to the Health and Well Being Board with key agencies including the private sector and engaging all districts focused on housing's role. Terms of reference have been established and work includes DFG management and practice (noted there is a sizeable budget under Better Care Fund), lifetime homes standards and better integrated housing options services. <i>John S will send the terms of reference to the group as members felt this was a great model.</i></p> <p>Yorkshire and Humberside A meeting about the Better Care Fund is due later in March and John W will focus on housing and adaptations using On the Cusp. Leeds Equality Forum has set up a workshop on housing and Bill and John W are also working to persuade the council to develop a broad ageing and housing strategy. <i>In preparation a key elements paper has been produced which Bill will share with the group.</i> It was noted that in Leeds it was hard to engage with LA housing leads though social care leads were interested. There are also no housing people on the Ageing and Well Being Board. Leeds Older People's Forum was working hard on the Fulfilling Lives, Ageing Better bid. A decision was due in July. <i>Sue reported that Silverlinks had been working in Otley on an age friendly audit which she will share.</i></p>

North West It was noted that there is some concern that in Wirral housing is not on the agenda of the Better Care Fund development though it has now been raised by Terry. As a result of pilot work advising older people about housing options in Alpha housing schemes the focus has moved to arranging meetings with community activists and professionals working with older people to get to the people that need help. A session has now been held in a cultural centre for example. The North West also has its housing conference planned for 30 April. Sue and Joe Oldman of Age UK are speaking as well as an older woman who has downsized. The aim is to focus on practical issues and they are hoping for 100 people.

South West There had been a number of seminars/events including one with the Housing LIN on housing and care with all workshops led by older people. ***Tony will share his blogs with the network.*** A SW regional conference on independent living is being planned in the next few months.

National issues Tony also presented at UKAFA on the housing network. It was noted that the Housing Minister was no longer attending the March meeting but DCLG will be there. In discussion it was felt that the Minister might be invited to a meeting of the network given that he said he liked round tables – possibly June
Sue and Jane to consider and advise

South East The group is keen to promote housing as the third leg of the three legged stool with health and social care. Having held a policy day on housing and age friendly environments, the policy panel want to focus next on older people as customers with housing being a key part of the work plan. In particular this work aims to focus on the housing market and how it does not work for older customers. Sue suggested the work done for the Housing and Ageing Alliance on linking housing to the economy might be helpful – See

<http://www.housinglin.org.uk/AboutHousingLIN/HAA/>

East Care issues have been a priority in the region but a housing sub group has now been set up and is aiming to hold a workshop on housing with a focus on housing and health and the importance of DFG/adaptations. Sue suggested Peter might like to contact Pat Strachan who manages HIA's in Cambridgeshire to help with the workshop and also offered help with speakers from C&RE. It was also noted that fuel costs were a real issue for older people in the region and that a DECC run round table on fuel poverty was planned for May which Peter was attending. It was noted that Tony was now an NEA Heat Hero for his work on buying clubs for oil. Peter also expressed concern about the rising number of older private tenants. It was noted that Age UK was developing a new housing policy which is likely to look at the private sector. ***Jane agreed to contact Joe Oldman on progress and inform the group***

	<p>North East/Newcastle Council budget cuts mean a stay of execution for one year for the local handyman service. Vera is keen to look at innovative options so will talk with Foundations and Sue directly for ideas. Newcastle Elders are looking at what an integrated housing, health and social care service should look like from the customer's viewpoint. This has been going for a year and Vera agreed to share progress with the network as this was seen to be useful to the implementation of the Better Care Fund. Work has just started on a small project on ageing in place with two universities with results due in May. Vera also ran through the work on age friendly environments undertaken over the years by the Elders Council and advised of new projects being developed around 'staying connected' with an emphasis on neighbourhood projects.</p>
6. Care & Repair England news	<p>Lords event Members congratulated C&RE on a successful Lords event and all agreed that Lord Filkin was a welcome ally. Sue reported that C&RE now had funding from Headley Trust for a northern worker covering NE, NW and Y and H. An appointment would be made after April. Details of how the person would work with Wendy will be circulated in due course. The brochures launched at the Lords and circulated to the group would be sent to MPs and other policy makers. Orders from the group can be made to Catriona</p> <p>Care Bill Sue expressed some concern that community equipment services could disappear as provision would no longer be a duty and she was keen to ensure this issue is covered in guidance. In discussion Sue agreed to keep the network informed as letters to local MPs would be very helpful.</p> <p>Ageing well at home/decent homes C&RE is undertaking a project to highlight the importance of resources and practical help for older people to repair their homes. With the loss of decent homes money the aim of the work/campaign is through case studies of individuals to show the health impact of decent homes and to argue for investment in the quality of housing. Jane will send the brief for the work for members to suggest any relevant case studies. Julie mentioned the ILC UK report on financial wellbeing which might be helpful to this work.</p>
7. Silverlinks project	<p>It was noted that the work has been piloted successfully in Bristol and Leeds and now funding had been achieved from the Big Lottery to continue these (with reduced funding) and develop other local projects. There was also funding to run workshops and training on housing options as set out in the tabled project plan. Network members were asked to contact Sue directly with ideas and she would keep the group informed of the plans as they develop. It was noted that a network of accredited local trainers would be established so members were asked to let Sue know of any relevant people. Tony suggested liaising with My Support Broker – concerned about supporting people with their personal budgets. Bill felt that this project would also have synergy with combatting isolation and loneliness. It was also noted that some of</p>

	<p>the local First Stop partners who offer housing and care information and advice may run projects. Jane agreed to send members details of First Stop projects for building links with the network and other local older people's groups. It was also agreed that Sarah Vernau from Silverlinks would be invited to the next meeting to talk about the project and evaluation</p>
8. Living Safely and Well at Home	<p>It was noted that the brochure was completed and would be available soon. Jane will inform members when it is available. It has been funded by the Nationwide and will be used by a number of First Stop partners to raise the profile of housing to good health and wellbeing, working with local health partners. The final brochure will be circulated to the network. It was agreed that it would be helpful to produce a copy online with scope to localise. Members felt this would be a useful tool for linking with health professionals locally and will order copies once available.</p>
9. Manifesto calls	<p>In discussion of the initial draft members agreed the policy asks and key messages. It was suggested that the brochure could be longer so offering space to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • add key 'killer' facts like the fact that 90% of older people live in mainstream housing • illustrate each issue/ask with a solution • be aspirational and solution focused <p>It was agreed that the audience would be policy makers and that it would be useful, too, for local older people's groups to use. Jane to redraft and circulate</p>
10. Creating a better evidence base	<p>Sue advised the group of the plans for this project and asked for views on the work on home adaptations. Comments included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • important to be aspirational though accepting that this was also about saving what exists • local evaluations identified included work in C&R Leeds Bill to send information to Sue • contacts were offered at Sheffield Hallam, Leeds, St Andrews and Cambridge Universities <p>Sue will keep the group informed as the project develops</p>
11. Any other business	There was none
12. Dates for next meeting	Tuesday 3 June 11.30 – 3.30 London venue (to be advised)