

DRAFT

Future Years Forum Committee Minutes 8th September 2014

Present: Shelagh Marshall (Chair), Mary Robinson, Mary Laurenson, Mashud Haque, Richard

Palmer, Neil Martin, Betty Armstrong, jean Elliot, Anne Forbes, Norma Whitfield, Margaret Dodds, Bridget Evans, Mohammed Arif Awan, Sally Hutchinson, Sarah

Handley (Big Lottery)

Apologies: John Welham, Paul Russell, Katie Smith, Irene Mace, Hilary Thompson, George Wood

Minutes

1. Welcome by the chair

Shelagh welcomed everyone to the meeting and accepted apologies from those listed above. She introduced Sarah Handley, who is Policy and Learning Manager at the Big Lottery.

2. Fulfilling Lives: Ageing Better

Sarah explained to the group that the Big Lottery has today announced it will be awarded £82 million to 15 areas of the country to alleviate loneliness and isolation amongst older people. She circulated the press release issued by the Big Lottery today which listed the successful areas.

Richard questioned why Greater Manchester had had almost double the funding of other areas and Sarah explained it was because this was an amalgamation of a number of organisations across a large area.

She added that the Big Lottery has invested £160 million into older people's projects:

• £50 million for a Centre for Ageing Better. Sarah explained this will be set up as independent trust which gathers and shares evidence on initiatives that work. She confirmed it will be a virtual centre.

- Silverline has had an investment which provides information, friendship and advice. That is funded with Comic Relief too.
- £25 million is being used to tackle alcohol abuse in older people.
- £26 million has been invested in the Heroes Return project which has enabled 54,000 veterans to go back to the sites where they fought.

Sarah reported that between 6 and 13% of people over 65 say they are always lonely; that there is an absence of contact with family and friends and services. It was questioned whether these people are predominantly women, which it isn't. It was noted that women are more likely to join groups.

Sarah reported that the Ageing better fund wants to achieve the following outcomes:

- Older people are less isolated and therefore are happy and healthier for longer
- People more actively involved in their community
- More involved in the design of services
- Better planning and co-ordination of service delivery as result.
- Will Influence improvements in their area

She informed the meeting that the 15 successful areas have been tasked with developing a project plan which will start to deliver in summer.

Sarah noted that Ecorys have been recruited to carry out the evaluation and this will include the impact the projects have had on older people. The meeting pointed out that the evaluation will need to show what has worked and why (and why it hasn't). It was added that it will be important for learning to be contextualised for future funding policy.

It was pointed out that the learning needs to feed into commissioners so they can use it when commissioning new services.

Sarah agreed to send her notes for the meeting to Joanne to be circulated with the minutes:

Action: SH / JV

Leeds Older People's Forum

Shelagh introduced Anne Forbes, Vice Chair of Leeds Older People's forum to the meeting explaining that Leeds Older People's Forum were one of the successful bidders to the Big Lottery Ageing Better Fund.

Anne acknowledged the amount of work that went into each of the bids that were put to the Big Lottery and hoped that the work carried out by those areas that were not successful could be used for other purposes. There was agreement in the room that the work put into the bids would be used to try and find funding from other sources.

Anne explained that when developing their bid they spoke to 863 different individuals; looked at the most hard to reach groups: people with learning disabilities, men and BME older people. She added that Leeds Older People's forum has 120 member organisations and not all of them will receive funding from this bid to the Big Lottery. She added that there are sixteen elements to the project and that it will be city wide.

Anne felt the success in Leeds was down to the energy and creativity in the city; the support of the lead commissioner of Adult Services and their Chair. She added they are now working on the project plan but are very mindful that the day to day work of Leeds Older People's Forum must continue.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

- **Dementia Friends Training:** It was agreed to hold the training for members after lunch and keep the meeting open for up to 30 people.
- **Bank Account**: Joanne apologised for the delay, but Barclays had lost the paperwork so she'd had to chase them.
- Isolation and Loneliness: Shelagh noted that a lot of people are lonely because they can't
 access transport. She added that she is launching a debate on transport and concessionary
 fares and will be producing a questionnaire that will need to go out to older people via the
 forums.

Richard reported that he had met with West Yorkshire Metro to ask if people could use their hospital appointment letters to get free transport to hospital. He added that he could not get their agreement. He noted that whilst there is an access bus in Kirklees it is predominately used to transport people to and from the supermarket.

• **Digitalisation:** Shelagh reported that she had attended a Communities and Local Government workshop on digital skills for older people. Richard pointed out that with the closure of libraries a lot of older people are not able to access computers.

It was agreed Joanne should circulate more information on Digital Connectivity for Older People with the minutes. **Action: JV**

5. Report back on Action Points

Material Deprivation: Joanne explained that she has completed part 2 of the material deprivation questionnaire with regional solutions, but has not had any back with local solutions. It was suggested that this is a really big task and Joanne suggested she could include the names of local Age UKs, who should be able to help older people or signpost older people on most of the matters. This was agreed. **Action: JV**

Joanne added that whilst it would be good to ask local forums to complete the questionnaires, she thought it would be better if someone could go through the questionnaire with them. It was agreed that she and Mary should look for some funding to progress with the tool: **Action: JV / ML**

Depth of Engagement: Joanne circulated a paper showing we engage with 24 different forums with 5462 members. Richard and Mashud added more to the paper. Joanne to update and circulate. **Action: JV**

Pension awareness raising sessions: Joanne reported that there had been little response to finding out where pension awareness raising sessions are being held. It was noted that the changes to the pension don't affect existing older people and it is the pre-state pension age group.

6. Sub-regional reports

The sub-regional report was tabled at the meeting.

Shelagh asked members what they are doing on 1st October for International day of Older People. Mashud reported that there is a week of activity happening in Bradford. Richard added that nothing is happening in Kirklees due to financial constraints. Mary reported there is a singing group in Hull and Shelagh added she has organised a service at Ripon Cathedral. Betty reported that DONMAG have organised a safety event with Lifewise at Hellabey.

7. UKAFA Update

It was reported that John is attending the UKAFA meeting on 17th September, that the agenda has been circulated, so any comments to John prior to the meeting.

8. Age Action Alliance Loneliness and Isolation Working Group

Shelagh reported that she is presenting the work done in Hampshire with Boots at the meeting of the working group tomorrow. She added that she has joined the Digital Skills Working Group and will be meeting with National Express who want to encourage older people to use an on-line booking system. Mashud suggested they should put a terminal in the transport hubs.

9. Transport and Concessionary Fares

Shelagh reported to the group that she will be having a workshop at the next UKAFA to start to gather ideas for a questionnaire for older people on concessionary fares. A workshop would be held after her presentation for members to draft the questions which should be asked. Discussion was held around the lack of buses in rural areas; the fact that disabled access is difficult in rural areas because there are no curbs for the buses to drop down to.

10. Finance Report

Joanne presented a finance report to the meeting which showed at the end of June we had £33,986 including reserves. Neil raised concerns about receiving funding going forward. It was suggested we need to gather evidence on good practice and show we are making a difference.

11. Planning for the AGM

It was noted that Care and Repair had been invited to speak at the AGM as had Dr Jonathan Collie from Trading Times on the 'Age of No Retirement', who has confirmed.

Neil gave his apologies for the meeting.

12. Any Other Business

Mashud noted that Bradford Teaching Hospitals has got a new chair, Lord Patel, who has an interest in Dementia.

Neil noted that the EHRC are looking at religion and belief and asked Joanne to circulate an online survey. **Action: JV**

13. Date and Time of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 1st December 2014, 11.00 a.m. at Lateral.