

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD IN INSHES
CHURCH, INVERNESS ON MONDAY 24 APRIL 2017 AT 10:00**

Present: Ian McNamara, Chair
Pamela Boxx
Isla Cuthbert
Ann McKay
Donalda Mackenzie
Donald MacLeod
Brenda Nicolson
Joan Philip
Irene Robertson
Evelyn Sinclair

**In
attendance:** Jo Cowan, Coordinator
Anne McDonald, Coordinator

Apologies – Fiona Angella, Brian Devlin, David Hannah, Bet McAllister and Lesley McDade

1 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none declared.

3 NEW TRUSTEES

There were no applications.

4 NEW MEMBERS

No applications had been received.

5 MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH 2017

The Minute of meeting held on 27 March 2017 was approved.

Proposer: Donalda Mackenzie
Seconder: Brenda Nicolson

6 REVIEW OF SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT GUIDANCE

This item would be taken under item 10 Meetings with External Bodies.

7 EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS
&
8 BUSINESS PLAN AND FUNDRAISING STRATEGY

Ann confirmed that the Sub Group had now met and a formal paper would be submitted to the next Board meeting for consideration. The Sub Group had focused its discussion on objectives which, while challenging, were also realistic and achievable. It had acknowledged the need for the HSCN to have an operational plan which would include the activities of the Coordinators as well as relevant activities undertaken by the Trustees. The importance of recording activity was emphasised to ensure the operational plan could be updated on a regular basis and progress towards achievement of planned outcomes monitored. The development of a business plan and fundraising strategy would flow from the operational plan.

The Board agreed to convene a special meeting to consider the Sub Group's recommendations and allow detailed discussion of the development of an operational plan to take place.

9 ALCOHOL AWARENESS RAISING MEETINGS

The Chair advised that he and the other Trustees involved in this initiative along with the Coordinators had been provided with the necessary training and information from NHS Highland, and a schedule of meetings of older people's groups at which alcohol awareness raising sessions would be delivered was being drawn up.

10 MEETINGS WITH EXTERNAL BODIES

(a) Older People's Improvement Group Meeting 11 April 2017

At this meeting discussion had taken place on Self Directed Support (SDS) when the various issues and concerns previously raised relating to the implementation of SDS within Highland were acknowledged. It was noted two reports were due to be issued shortly, one from SDS Scotland following its meeting on 20 March 2017 and one from Audit Scotland, both of which the Board would await with interest. The Board was concerned that there was a lack of compliance with the SDS guidance and felt that the position needed to be reviewed. An open and transparent decision making process was key to ensure that clients were fully informed of all the SDS options and that the most appropriate option for their particular needs was identified and implemented.

A proposal made at the meeting that the Group should not meet again until October had caused some concern, as the Group provided a forum at which Highland-wide issues could be aired and variations in working practice across the area highlighted and addressed. It was suggested that in the interim short life working groups might be set up to deal with issues as and when they arose.

(b) Adult Services Commissioning Group Meeting 12 April 2017

The Chair reported briefly on this meeting. There could perhaps be an enhanced role for this Group should the proposal that the Older People's Improvement Group go into abeyance be implemented. The Group also discussed the shortcomings over the implementation of SDS and it was decided that a short life 'Task and Finish' working party be convened and report back to the Group.

11 REPORTS

(a) Coordinators

Anne and Jo spoke to their circulated report updating on activity and progress against their work plan. The following points were highlighted: -

- Arrangements were being made to hold a joint meeting with Age Scotland in the Merkinch Centre, Inverness on 24 May 2017.
- The first of the local Community Planning Partnership roadshows had taken place in Wick. Further roadshows were planned for Fort William and Aviemore.
- Anne had attended a two-day Creativity in Care course which had looked at ways of involving people with dementia.
- COSLA was undertaking a project on online scams and would like to work in partnership with HSCN to take this forward in Highland. It was agreed Jo would liaise with COSLA with a view to arranging for one of its representatives to attend a future meeting to discuss the project and how HSCN can contribute. It was also agreed that an invitation be extended to the Stay Safe Coordinator to attend the meeting.
- An approach had been made by the Rumster Outdoor Centre Development Group regarding the development of its business plan and how the older people's agenda might be integrated into community initiatives. The Board acknowledged the importance of ensuring community planning took account of the needs and aspirations of all age groups.

(b) Membership and Communication

The Board noted for information the minute of meeting of the Communications Group held on 10 April 2017.

- *HSCN Annual Conference, 26 April 2017*: The Chair confirmed that all the arrangements had now been finalised. It was agreed that copies of HSCN's response to the consultation on end of life care would be available at the conference for attendees' information and interest.
- *Summer Newsletter*: Lesley advised she had a number of articles available for inclusion in the Summer edition.

(c) Black Isle Cares (BIC) Update

In Brian's absence there was no report.

(d) SOPA

Jo's circulated report of the Parliamentary Reception held on 29 March 2017 was noted.

12 TREASURER'S REPORT

A summary of the accounts for March 2017 was received and noted, and the donation raised through the Cooperative Community Fund was acknowledged. The Chair confirmed that a full set of accounts for the financial year to 31 March 2017 had been prepared by the appointed Auditor for submission to/approval at the AGM on 26 April 2017.

13 AOCB

(a) Blood Monitoring Tests – Revised Arrangements

Brenda raised the issue of patients now being sent to the Royal Northern Infirmary for blood monitoring tests for treatment initiated and monitored by consultants instead of attending their GP Surgery. It was not clear how this shift of work from general practice to secondary care had come about, what consultation had taken place about the change in procedure and its impact on patients. The Chair agreed to write to NHS Highland to seek clarification of the position.

(b) Community Planning Evaluation Research Proposal

The Chair had been contacted by Dr Friederike Ziegler regarding a funding proposal she and research colleagues were currently working on to evaluate the new community planning partnerships for their capacity to create age-friendly communities. An evaluation tool had already been developed which would be tested. Dr Ziegler wondered if HSCN would be interested in being one of the partner organisations involved in the evaluation. The Board confirmed its interest in participating in the project, the Chair would advise Dr Ziegler accordingly.

(c) Self-referral for Physiotherapy

Donalda raised some issues that had been drawn to her attention regarding the physiotherapy self-referral and telephone assessment service. Having heard from other members present, the Board acknowledged that experience of the service was variable. The Chair agreed to raise the concerns expressed with NHS Highland and seek clarification of how the service operated. It was suggested that reporting adverse experiences of the service on Patient Opinion would be helpful in highlighting any issues.

(d) Great Wilderness Challenge Entrants

The Board noted the HSCN entrants for this year's event. Entry applications were still available.

(e) NHS Highland Catchball for Staff and Patient Feedback

Anne advised that she and Jo would be seeking feedback from older people on the four "Catchball" aims but would also be interested to hear the Board's views. Having considered the document, the Board felt that the wording was somewhat vague and that the aims would need to be defined in more specific detail to enable meaningful discussion to take place. The Board was also concerned that the aim regarding patients wearing their own day time clothes in hospital, where possible for them to do so, did not take account of patient choice.

(f) Stakeholder Involvement – Independent Advocacy Plan 2017 - 20

NHS Highland was developing an independent advocacy plan setting out its plans for the development and provision of independent advocacy services from 2018 and was seeking the views of organisations and community groups who work with people who may benefit from using or accessing independent advocacy services. The Board agreed to invite a representative of NHS Highland to the next meeting to discuss the Plan and thereafter would submit a response to the consultation.

(g) Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation

The Chair reminded the Board of an incident that had been discussed at a previous meeting following which he had written to the Justice Minister on what constitutes a hate crime. He suggested that the incident could be used as an example to feed into the review.

(h) Dunbar Centre – Opportunity for Group Meetings

The Chair advised that the Dunbar Centre could be made available in the morning for groups requiring premises for meetings and other activities. A charge would be made for the use of the premises.

(i) Inclusion Scotland

The Board noted an information sheet issued by Inclusion Scotland advising that it had received funding from the Scottish Government for a local Policy and Engagement project based in the Highland Region. The aim of the project was to identify and remove those barriers to taking part in local decision making for disabled people.

(j) Rapid Process Improvement Workshops

Jo had been invited to participate in one of NHS Highland's Rapid Process Improvement Workshops looking at supporting older people and would report back in due course.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 29 May 2017 at 10:00 in Inshes Church.

The meeting closed at 11:50