

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD IN INSHES CHURCH, INVERNESS ON MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 10:00

Present: Ian McNamara, Chair
Fiona Angella
Pamela Boxx
Isla Cuthbert
Bet McAllister
Ann McKay
Brenda Nicolson
Joan Philip
Irene Robertson
Evelyn Sinclair

In attendance: Anne MacDonald, Coordinator
Jennifer Paton, The Three R's Self Directed Support Project (item 12)

Apologies – Jo Cowan, Brian Devlin, David Hannah, Donald MacLeod, Donalda Mackenzie and John Furze

1 WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were as noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none declared.

3 NEW TRUSTEES

There were no applications.

4 NEW MEMBERS

John Furze, Regional Manager (North West Scotland), The Macular Society had joined as an individual member.

5 MINUTE OF 28 AUGUST 2017

The Minute of 28 August 2017 was approved.

Proposer: Isla Cuthbert
Seconder: Joan Philip

6 EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS

Ann spoke to the circulated discussion paper prepared by the Sub Group which set out the five key actions relating to the prioritised objectives that would form the basis of an operational plan. This operational plan would allow activity undertaken by the Coordinators and by the Trustees to be captured, thereby enabling progress against achievement of the objectives to be

monitored. It was proposed that the plan be updated on a three monthly basis and that the position be reviewed after one year to ensure the plan was fit for purpose. The Coordinators' monthly activity reports would provide the necessary information to update the plan on a regular basis. With regard to the Trustees, it was agreed to have a standing item on the agenda to enable them to report relevant activity on their part. Ann offered to collate this information on a quarterly basis and populate the plan accordingly. It was agreed that the first of the three monthly updates on activity would be presented to the Board at its meeting in January 2018 and quarterly thereafter.

7 ALCOHOL AWARENESS RAISING MEETINGS

Further meetings were being arranged.

8 MEETINGS WITH EXTERNAL BODIES

(a) Sight Action Service Users Forum Meeting 30 August 2017

The Chair reported on this meeting at which a number of interesting issues had been touched on including client engagement; updates had also been received on services and on local and national projects. It was noted that an event was to be held on 8 November 2017, the venue to be confirmed, to highlight achievements to date of all sensory organisations.

(b) Highland Adult Health and Wellbeing Forum Meeting 14 September 2017

Evelyn gave a brief report of this meeting which provided a useful networking opportunity for a range of organisations.

9 REPORTS

(a) Coordinators' Report

Speaking to the circulated report which detailed activity to date, Anne noted in particular the Outcome Stars initiative, the rolling programme of older people's get togethers and intergenerational working.

The Chair confirmed that a bid for continuing funding for the Coordinator posts had been submitted to NHS Highland and would be considered by the Adult Services Commissioning Group at its meeting on 18 October 2017. As the Chair was not available on that date, Evelyn would attend the meeting on his behalf.

(b) Membership and Communication

The Board noted the minute of meeting of the Communications Group held on 4 September 2017. The minute referred to the engagement overview to which the HSCN had been invited to contribute. The Board had remitted to the Communications Group to further explore the issues and prepare a response on its behalf. A copy of the response was circulated for the Board's information.

- *Winter Newsletter*: the various deadlines for the Winter edition were noted.
- *Website*: work was ongoing to update the site.

(c) Black Isle Cares (BIC) Update

The Chair gave an update on the intergenerational working initiative with Fortrose Academy noting that pupils were keen to participate in the meals on wheels service.

(d) SOPA

The Chair advised that Donald had decided to stand down as a Trustee of SOPA. HSCN would wish to maintain links with SOPA and to continue to receive information from the organisation.

10 TREASURER'S REPORT

Evelyn spoke to the circulated accounts for August 2017 which the Board noted.

11 AOCB

(a) Engagement Overview

This item was covered at item 9b.

(b) 'Living Better with Long Term Conditions'

Reporting on a meeting she had attended in Aviemore on this topic, Pam raised the issue of how such events were publicised to ensure they reached as wide an audience as possible. Although details of similar events and meetings were widely disseminated, the Board acknowledged the challenges in reaching those individuals most in need.

(c) Scottish Pensioners Forum

The Board noted details of an outreach meeting which the Scottish Pensioners Forum would be holding on 3 October 2017 in the Spectrum Centre, Inverness to mark UN national day for older persons.

(d) Concessionary Rail Fares

Fiona and Bet had made further enquiries and advised that the matter would require to be taken up with Network Rail.

12 SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT - THE THREE R's PROJECT

The Chair was pleased to welcome Jennifer Paton, Legal Officer (Dementia), MECOPP Three R's (Rights, Respect and Responsibility) Self Directed Support Project. Jennifer explained that MECOPP – Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project – was a charity providing a range of support services to informal carers and those in receipt of care across Scotland, working primarily with communities who experienced marginalisation due to ethnicity, age, disability or other protected characteristics. Concerns had been raised about inconsistent policy and practice across Scotland with regard to the implementation of Self Directed Support (SDS). The aim of the Three R's Project was essentially to empower people who were entitled to SDS to access SDS and maximise its potential; the project could also provide support and assistance to Third Sector organisations. Outlining the main areas of activity for the project, Jennifer advised that awareness raising events were being arranged, one of which would be held at Smithton Church, Inverness on 13 November 2017 focussing specifically on dementia. Discussion followed during which a number of factors that impacted on the effective implementation of SDS were highlighted.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 30 October 2017 at 10:00 in Inshes Church.

The meeting closed at 11:45