

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD IN INSHES CHURCH, INVERNESS ON MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 10:00

Present: Ian McNamara, Chair
Fiona Angella
Pamela Boxx
Isla Cuthbert
John Furze
David Hannah
Lesley McDade
Donalda Mackenzie
Donald MacLeod
Michelle Manzie
Brenda Nicolson
Joan Philip
Irene Robertson
Evelyn Sinclair

In attendance: Jo Cowan, Coordinator
Anne MacDonald, Coordinator

Apologies – Brian Devlin, Bet McAllister and Ann McKay

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

Applications had been received from Michelle Manzie and John Furze. Michelle and John along with the Coordinators left the room while the Board considered their applications. After discussion the Board approved both applications.

Michelle, John and the Coordinators rejoined the meeting. Michelle and John were informed that their applications had been approved.

4 NEW MEMBERS

The following new Members were noted:-

- Chris Evans, Strontian, Argyll
- Brian Evans, Strontian, Argyll
- Jean Davidson, Tain

- Angela Paton, Perth (from action on Hearing Loss Scotland but applying as an individual)
- ILM Highland, Alness

5 MINUTE OF 29 JANUARY 2018

The Minute of 29 January 2018 was approved.

Proposer: Isla Cuthbert
 Seconder: Donalda Mackenzie

With reference to item 3 Deaf Services, it was noted that an article had appeared recently in the local press regarding waiting times for NHS services and the services that were available in the private sector.

6 SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT (SDS) UPDATE

Following discussion at the last Adult Services Commissioning Group, Anne understood that NHS Highland would be undertaking a review of SDS. She noted that SDS Scotland had organised a meeting to discuss the establishment of a Highland SDS Stakeholders Group comprising of representatives from collective advocacy organisations and care providers, and that SDS Scotland would be meeting with NHS Highland to discuss the position and consider how best to take things forward. A short video illustrating SDS in practice which Anne had produced would be shown later in the meeting.

7 EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS

The Board considered the circulated form which Ann had drafted for recording Trustees' activity. During discussion the Board acknowledged the need to identify/measure the impact of activity undertaken and how it related to HSCN's aims and objectives. The draft form was approved, Trustees to complete it on a monthly basis for submission to Ann. It was agreed that the form would be reviewed in a few months.

8 ALCOHOL AWARENESS RAISING MEETINGS

It was noted that the peer group would be meeting again with NHS Highland representatives to discuss their continuing involvement in this initiative.

9 MEETINGS WITH EXTERNAL BODIES

(a) NHS Discretionary Grants Meeting 6 February 2018

The Chair reported briefly on this meeting to discuss concerns about ongoing funding for various Third Sector organisations and noted that NHS Highland would be reviewing the position.

(b) Integrated Care Fund Meeting 7 February 2018

The application for continued funding from the Integrated Care Fund for the Coordinators' posts had now been considered by NHS Highland and the Chair was able to confirm that funding would be available for a further year, from September 2018 – September 2019. The position thereafter remained to be clarified.

(c) Dementia Strategy 16 February 2018

Referring to the comments made by the Board on the national dementia strategy, the Chair confirmed that the word “more” would be removed from the first four outcomes. The contribution made by friends and neighbours in supporting someone living with dementia had also been acknowledged. In light of the comments made, a revised set of outcomes for the Highland area was being produced and would be circulated for further comment with a view to identifying priority areas for action.

10 REPORTS

(a) Coordinators’ Report

The Board noted the circulated activity report. Discussion followed on visits made by the Coordinators and Trustees to care homes which had highlighted several issues, for example the need to locate homes in an appropriate environment ensuring accessibility, social isolation, and provision of appropriate activities and stimulation. There was also concern about the ongoing financial viability of care homes.

Anne advised that she and Jo would be contacting group members of HSCN to discuss men’s health. It was agreed that they report back to the Board at its meeting on 26 June 2018 on the issues identified. It was noted that the week 11 – 18 June 2018 had been designated Men’s Health Week with diabetes the specific topic.

(b) Membership and Communication

The Board noted the minute of meeting of the Communications Group held on 13 February 2018.

- *Annual Conference:* the draft programme which had been circulated for comment was agreed. The Board then took the opportunity to view Anne’s video on Self Directed Support and agreed to show it at the Conference. It was also suggested that intergenerational working be highlighted at the Conference, this option to be further explored.
- *Newsletter:* it was agreed that the Spring issue would run to 12 pages.
- *Website:* this had been refreshed and updated.

(c) Black Isle Cares (BIC) Update

BIC had organised a training session on governance for its Trustees. It was suggested that HSCN might arrange a similar event looking at the role and responsibilities of Trustees.

11 TREASURER’S REPORT

(a) Accounts

Evelyn spoke to the circulated accounts for January 2018 which were noted. Having attended a meeting on strategic planning, Evelyn suggested the Board might wish to consider the development of a longer term strategic plan looking at potential projects for HSCN to undertake in line with its aims and objectives.

The Chair was pleased to confirm that the application to the Common Good Fund for a grant to help with the costs of this year’s Annual Conference had been successful.

12 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Community Partnerships

The Board noted the response received from the Scottish Government to the issues and concerns it had raised regarding the operation of community partnerships within Highland. It was agreed to circulate the response for information to all the recipients of HSCN's original letter.

(b) Highland Region Adult Social Care Expenditure

Official data from national reports had been circulated that showed Highland Region to have the lowest spend of all Scottish Councils, by a considerable margin, on adult social care for people aged over 65 years. The Board also noted proposed cuts in The Highland Council's revenue budget for 2018 – 19 which would result in significant underfunding of adult social care services. Notwithstanding NHS Highland's lead agency role in delivering adult social care, legal responsibility lay with The Highland Council for the provision of care. The Board therefore agreed to write to The Highland Council setting out its serious concerns about underfunding and the impact on service provision for vulnerable older people, and urging that measures be taken to ensure that expenditure on adult social care in Highland Region at least met the Scottish average.

(c) Age Scotland Project - 'Speaking Up for Our Age'

Further to the offer of support from Age Scotland to research HSCN's formation and development over the years, the Board remitted to the Coordinators to apply for funding to enable the necessary work to be done.

(d) OSCR

The Board received an email dated 14 February 2018 from the Chief Executive of OSCR Online regarding recent reports of abuses connected to some charities working in the international aid sector. In light of these reports OSCR wished to remind charities of 2 key points –

- Safeguarding (keeping vulnerable beneficiaries, volunteers and staff safe)
- Notifiable events.

A number of key actions for charity trustees to take were also set out in the email.

Noting the guidance and key actions in terms of Trustees' responsibilities and conduct, the Board would ensure that the policies and procedures it had in place were reviewed on a regular basis and steps taken, as required, to ensure their effectiveness.

(e) SOPA

The Board noted that Tom Berney, Chair of SOPA would be stepping down when his term of office ended in May. Arrangements were in hand to recruit a successor.

13 AOCB

(a) "Care Au Pairs"

During a recent visit abroad, David had met several young people who were interested in au pair jobs in Scotland. He wondered if there was merit in considering whether this role could be extended to the care sector.

(b) Local SOPA Meeting

Consideration was being given to the possibility of holding two meetings in different centres rather than one meeting in Inverness.

(c) Public Appointments

The Scottish Government had organised a touring roadshow in connection with public appointments. It was noted that a session would be held in Inverness on 20 March 2018.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 26 March 2018 at 10:00 in Inshes Church.

The meeting closed at 12:10