

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD IN THE SPECTRUM CENTRE, INVERNESS ON MONDAY 28 AUGUST 2017 AT 10:00**

**Present:** Ian McNamara, Chair  
Fiona Angella  
Pamela Boxx  
Isla Cuthbert  
David Hannah  
Bet McAllister  
Lesley McDade  
Donalda Mackenzie  
Brenda Nicolson  
Joan Philip  
Irene Robertson

**In attendance:** Jo Cowan, Coordinator  
John Furze, Regional Manager for Scotland (North West), The Macular Society

**Apologies** – Brian Devlin, Anne MacDonald, Ann McKay, Donald MacLeod and Evelyn Sinclair

**1 WELCOME/APOLOGIES**

Welcoming everyone to the meeting the Chair was pleased to introduce John Furze, recently appointed Regional Manager for Scotland (North West) for The Macular Society, who was attending as an observer. Apologies were as noted above.

**2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were none declared.

**3 THE MACULAR SOCIETY**

Outlining his role as Regional Manager for North West Scotland, John Furze explained that The Macular Society was a charitable organisation whose aim was to help people with macular degeneration, improve treatments and fund ongoing research into macular degeneration and other eye conditions. He would be working with health professionals across the area to support people who were diagnosed with macular degeneration. He also referred to the various support groups throughout the region and highlighted the important role they played in helping people with the condition.

**4 VISIT TO UHI CAMPUS**

It was confirmed a visit to the UHI Campus had been arranged which would take place following today's meeting.

**5 NEW TRUSTEES**

There were no applications.

## **6 NEW MEMBERS**

No new applications had been received.

## **7 MINUTE OF 26 JUNE 2017**

The Minute of 26 June 2017 was approved.

Proposer: Isla Cuthbert  
Seconder: David Hannah

## **8 SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT UPDATE**

The Chair advised that the Audit Scotland report which had now been published had raised a number of issues regarding the implementation of Self Directed Support (SDS). While the report had identified examples of good practice across the country, there were areas for improvement to ensure SDS achieved its full potential. The Board noted that the Adult Services Commissioning Group would be undertaking a refresh of SDS implementation within Highland.

## **9 EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS**

This was work in progress, the Sub Group having been remitted to develop a draft operational plan for consideration by the full Board at its meeting on 25 September 2017.

## **10 ALCOHOL AWARENESS RAISING MEETINGS**

The Chair reported briefly on the meetings that had taken place. Further meetings were being arranged.

## **11 MEETINGS WITH EXTERNAL BODIES**

### **(a) 'Realistic Medicine' – Meeting with the Scottish Health Council 12 July 2017**

The Chair reported on this interesting meeting which had touched on people's expectations of, and the need to be realistic about, what medical treatments can achieve.

### **(b) Adult Services Commissioning Group Meeting 9 August 2017**

Topics discussed at this meeting included SDS implementation within Highland and a proposal to increase the capacity of the Care at Home Sector whereby care at home providers in identified localities would be allocated a block budget and have responsibility for delivering all the care required to meet the locality needs. The SDS principles would underpin all service delivery. The Board noted that the project would be piloted in Inverness in the first instance. It acknowledged concerns about lack of carers in certain areas and the importance to clients of continuity of carers.

### **(c) Elective Care Centre Meeting 21 August 2017**

The Chair reported on the discussions that had taken place and the issues raised for consideration in the development of an elective care centre in Highland.

## 12 REPORTS

### (a) Coordinators' Report

Jo spoke to the circulated report detailing activity during July and August 2017. She noted that the main focus of her and Anne's work was currently the Outcome Stars initiative.

### (b) Membership and Communication

The Board noted the minute of meeting of the Communications Group held on 2 August 2017.

- *Autumn newsletter*: the Autumn edition had been issued.
- *Website*: Jo and Lesley were working together to refresh the site.

### (c) Black Isle Cares (BIC) Update

Reporting on Brian's behalf, the Chair noted the continuing expansion of the meals on wheels service. Recruitment of carers remained challenging in certain parts of the Black Isle. A business plan had been developed and funding priorities identified to ensure continuing service provision. Further meetings were taking place with Fortrose Academy regarding intergenerational working.

### (d) SOPA

There were no issues for noting.

## 13 TREASURER'S REPORT

In Evelyn's absence the Chair spoke to the circulated accounts for June and July 2017. These were noted.

## 14 CORRESPONDENCE

### (a) HSCN Annual General Meeting Motions

The Board noted for information the responses received from the Health Minister and other parties, to the two motions passed at the HSCN Annual General Meeting on 26 April 2017 regarding the National Care Home Contract and the possibility of introducing a Scottish health and social care tax.

### (b) Concessionary Rail Fares

There was no further progress to report. Bet undertook to pursue the matter with The Highland Council.

### (c) Travel Expenses Claim Form

At its meeting on 2 August 2017 the Communications Group had recommended some revisions to the travel expenses claim form. After discussion, the Board agreed the amendments, it also agreed that claim forms should be submitted to the Chair to authorise payment.

### (d) Highland Third Sector Interface Annual Awards

The Chair was pleased to report that HSCN had won the Highland Partnership Award for its partnership working with NHS Highland on the alcohol awareness raising initiative.

### (e) Great Wilderness Challenge 2018

It was noted that 9 HSCN representatives had signed up to take part in this event.

**(f) Engagement Overview**

The Chair who was the service users representative on the Adult Services Commissioning Group advised that HSCN had been invited to contribute to an engagement overview specifically on the issue of service users engagement and representation in the planning and design of health and social care services. Following discussion it was agreed that the members of the Communications Group would further explore the issues at its next meeting on 4 September 2017 and prepare a response.

**15 AOCB**

**(a) Consultation on Free Bus Travel for Older and Disabled People**

The Board noted the launch of the Scottish Government's consultation to seek views on the concessionary travel scheme for older and disabled people. The closing date for responses was 18 November 2017.

**(b) Diary of Coordinators' Meetings/Events**

Jo agreed to circulate a calendar of forthcoming meetings/events in which she and Anne would be involved.

**(c) Sutherland Update**

Reporting on a Community Partnership meeting held in Kinlochbervie, David advised that the main topic of discussion had been transport when the need for adequate services and integrated bus and rail networks, particularly in North West Sutherland, had been highlighted.

**16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 25 September 2017 at 10:00 in Inshes Church.

**The meeting closed at 11:40**