

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD IN INSHES CHURCH, INVERNESS ON MONDAY 29 JANUARY 2018 AT 10:00

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

In attendance: Lynda Campbell, Hearing Support Coordinator, Deaf Services & Hearing Support Team, NHS Highland (item 3)
Jo Cowan, Coordinator
John Furze
Anne MacDonald, Coordinator
Michelle Manzie, Age Scotland Highland Project Officer for Dementia Friendly Communities

Apologies – Brian Devlin and Bet McAllister

1 WELCOME/APOLOGIES

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

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none declared.

3 DEAF SERVICES

The Chair was pleased to welcome Lynda Campbell, Hearing Support Coordinator, Deaf Services & Hearing Support Team, NHS Highland. Lynda outlined the services she and her team provided and the work they undertook in collaboration with the Department of Audiology, Raigmore Hospital and with The Highland Council. She explained that there were different types and degrees of hearing loss and stressed the importance of early recognition of the problem. A hearing screening service was now available, several drop in centres had been set up at various locations across Highland, and there were plans to develop a joint (hearing and sight) sensory centre. Lynda referred to communication issues experienced by people with hearing loss and outlined steps that could be taken to alleviate the difficulties, for example with regard to meeting venues ensuring appropriate loop systems were in place.

The Chair thanked Lynda for her comprehensive presentation.

4 NEW TRUSTEES

There were no applications.

5 NEW MEMBERS

The following new Members were noted: -

- Kenneth McGowan, Inverness
- Joy Roberts, Aviemore
- Nina Semple (c/o Poppy Scotland but joining as an individual)
- Rebecca Dunn (c/o Generations Working Together but joining as an individual)
- Loch Duich Lunch Club, Kyle of Lochalsh
- Strathspey Visually Impaired Group, Kincaig

6 MINUTE OF 27 NOVEMBER 2017

The Minute of 27 November 2017 was approved.

Proposer: David Hannah

Seconder: Fiona Angella

7 SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT UPDATE

It was noted that a new Self Directed Support (SDS) Strategy was to be developed and a short life working group would be set up to take this forward. Referring to the meeting facilitated by SDS Scotland in Highland last year at which concerns had been raised about SDS implementation, Anne advised that a meeting was to take place on 30 January 2018 to discuss the creation of a SDS stakeholders group.

8 EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS

Ann spoke to her circulated report which she had compiled from the information submitted by the Trustees, and which also included relevant information from the Coordinators report, relating to their activities and work undertaken during the quarter September – December 2017. Ann asked the Trustees to consider the appropriateness of the format of the report and the level of detail required, noting that both quantitative and qualitative data were relevant for evaluation purposes.

After discussion the Trustees remitted to Ann to devise a form for them to use to record their activity, the draft form to be submitted to the February Board meeting for approval. It was suggested that the form be circulated to Trustees one week prior to each Board meeting for completion and submission to Ann.

9 ALCOHOL AWARENESS RAISING MEETINGS

The Chair advised that the peer group would be meeting later today with NHS Highland representatives to discuss the next steps.

10 MEETINGS WITH EXTERNAL BODIES

(a) Older People's Improvement Group Meeting 9 January 2018

The Chair reported on the topics discussed at this meeting, in particular commissioning priorities including support for older men and housing for older people. Discussion had also taken place regarding the role and remit of the various Improvement Groups and a meeting was to take place to consider future structures to support the Adult Services Commissioning Group.

(b) Highland Dementia Strategy Meeting 12 January 2018

The Chair referred to the papers he had circulated arising from the first meeting of the Highland Dementia Strategy Working Group held on 12 January 2018. The next meeting of the Working Group was scheduled for 16 February 2018 to further consider the National Dementia Strategy and its implementation within Highland. The Chair invited comments from the Trustees on the national strategy document which he would feed in to the Working Group. During discussion the following points were made: -

- The Board recommended that the word "more" should be deleted from the first four key outcomes of the National Dementia Strategy.
- The Board felt that the Carers Act should be embedded within the Strategy, and that people with dementia needed to be able to access SDS where appropriate to ensure provision of a package of care that best met their requirements.
- It was noted there was no mention of peer support and awareness raising of dementia in the document. The people who supported an individual with dementia in the community would not necessarily be family members who may live some distance away, rather it would be friends, neighbours and peer groups in the locality who looked out for the person. It was important therefore to raise awareness of dementia with a view to ensuring that peer groups were dementia friendly, and the Strategy should acknowledge this.
- A significant percentage of residents in care homes had dementia. There was a need to ensure that their particular needs were recognised and that appropriate care was delivered to meet those needs and address issues such as social isolation.

At this point the Chair introduced Michelle Manzie, Age Scotland Highland Project Officer for Dementia Friendly Communities. Michelle outlined the background to the development of the project and gave details of the work done over the past few years to create a cycle of support for people with dementia and their carers in rural areas. Two pilots were underway at present and Michelle would be visiting remote and rural areas in Highland over the next three years with a view to establishing a further eight dementia friendly communities. Michelle confirmed that she would be aiming to connect with a range of mental health groups to further inform her work to develop compassionate communities, adding that it was the intention to provide a cycle of support through the community for older people generally and not just those with dementia.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked Michelle for her presentation and would look forward to updates on progress.

11 REPORTS

(a) Coordinators' Report

The Board noted the circulated activity report. The dates of the forthcoming Older People's Groups Get Togethers with Age Scotland were confirmed.

(b) Membership and Communication

The Board noted the minute of meeting of the Communications Group held on 15 January 2018.

- *Newsletter*: the timetable for the production and issue of this year's editions was agreed.
- *Website*: Jo and Leslie gave details of the work they had done to update and streamline the website with the aim of making it easier to navigate and more user friendly.

(c) Black Isle Cares (BIC) Update

It was noted that BIC was organising a one day event focusing on data protection.

12 TREASURER'S REPORT

(a) Accounts

Evelyn spoke to the circulated accounts for November and December 2017. The Chair advised that he had submitted an application to the Common Good Fund for a grant to help with the costs of this year's Annual Conference.

13 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) SOPA

The Board supported a proposal from SOPA to hold a meeting in Highland with the aim of gathering views on a range of local issues which it would then raise with the Scottish Parliament. Discussion followed regarding the date and location of the event, the arrangements for which would be confirmed in due course. The Chair also asked the Trustees to think about potential topics for the agenda.

14 AOCB

(a) "Fit Homes"

Donald drew the Trustees' attention to an article in the local press about proposals for the building of state of the art housing incorporating the latest technology to assist elderly and disabled people to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible.

(b) Gift Aid

Evelyn alerted the Trustees to a potential issue relating to Gift Aid. If an individual signed a form indicating they wished the arrangement to continue automatically and then fell outwith the tax bracket at some later date, they would become liable for payment of tax.

(c) Community Partnerships

Several of the Trustees had expressed concerns regarding the operation of the Community Partnerships within Highland, particularly the lack of community representation on the Partnerships and lack of engagement and involvement with local communities. It was noted that the position was variable across Highland and that some Partnerships were working effectively. While acknowledging that the Partnerships were still in the early stages of

development, the Trustees agreed that a letter be sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities setting out the issues identified and stressing the need for the consistent implementation of the Community Empowerment Act across the area.

(d) Insurance

David raised an issue regarding insurance policies and highlighted the need for small groups and organisations to ensure the arrangements they put in place were appropriate and provided the necessary cover.

(e) Events Management

Following his attendance at a conference for older people, David stressed the importance of events organisers recognising any requirements or special needs attendees may have and ensuring these were factored into the arrangements.

(f) Protecting Highland Adults Newsletter

The Trustees noted with interest the Winter 2017/18 edition of this newsletter. It was agreed to publish the document on the HSCN website.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 12:20