

Age Friendly City Forum Meeting October 5th 2015

Present: Jacqueline Reyher (facilitator) Francis Tonks, Val Brown, Sue Starr, Lynne Shields, Sue Howley, Val Cane, Neil Kelly, Mehvish Durrani.

Apologies : Penny Morley, Millie Ferguson, Len Goldman.

Minutes from the last meeting read and agreed

The Older Peoples Day (October 1st) Meetings hosted by the Older Peoples Council

Francis Tonks and Lynne Shields reported.

The meetings were held in St John's Community Centre (am) and Patching Lodge (pm).

The morning meeting drew a larger audience but both meetings were successful in clarifying the ways in which Social Care could be accessed and included feedback by members of the audience who had experienced the process.

Each meeting included a presentation by a representative of the Council (Senior Social Worker)

The first point to understand is that the NHS is free at the point of access. Social Care has to be paid for. How the care is paid will depend on the resources available to the individual

We learned that access to Social Care was through a number of conduits, the main one being by referral by the GP.

For a really good summary of the whole Access to Social Care process refer to -

www.which.co.uk/elderly-care *your relatives needs / accessing social care*

This summary not only explains the process but also gives guidance on how to challenge a health assessment and the financial assessment.

It is comforting to know that the assessment of savings and resources does not include the value of your home.

Funding for Social Care (in brief!)

If you have less than £14,250 (2015 - 2016) you would be entitled to maximum support.

If you have between £14,250 and £23,250 in capital you will have to contribute towards your care.

If you have more than £23,250 you will need to use that capital to fund your care.

Discussion about Access to Social Care and Managing Social Care

- A number of concerns were highlighted :-
- Access to information
- Where are "access points" - one is in St John's Community Centre **where are the others? Jackie investigating**
- Lack of GPs could limit access to process.
- Security and Trust (allowing people into your home)

- Employing carers (and the potential minefield of employment law)
- Increasing need for social care and the need for regular reassessments - assurances were given by both social workers that once the recipient of an assessment annual assessments are carried out.

AFC Forum and Steering Group Progress and Direction.

(feedback from last Meeting with Annie Alexander)

- Budgeting restrictions acknowledged
- The need to focus on vulnerable groups / topics/ issues to ensure value for money and effectiveness of any action - more bangs for your bucks!
- The work of Citywide Connect acknowledged (getting organisations to work more closely together to prevent individuals "falling through the social care net).

RACOP

Apparently this is a scheme that has been running for a few years - but none of us had heard of it.

GP referral for fast action for patients with complex conditions who need rapid attention and rapid results to tests.

Results are sent to GPs and Pharmacies involved.

Hove Library

Val Brown brought to our attention that Hove Library had changed the set up for users and this was not comfortable for older or disabled users (high tables and "perch seats").

This topic will be raised at the next OPC Meeting.

(Jackie met with Julie O'Neil, Community Engagement manager Brighton & Hove libraries at Hove Library and mentioned this to her).

Aortic Aneurysm

A very useful information leaflet supplied by Val Cane highlighting available screening service for men over 65.

Hot off the press

The Fairness Commission Public Meetings

Thursday 26th November

Weds 10th December

Thursday 18th Feb

Weds 16th March

Venues to be confirmed.

Lynne Shields will be attending at least two of these meetings.

Next meeting-

Monday 2nd November at 10.30-12.00

Jess Sumner will be attending.