



Brighton & Hove  
City Council

# Older People's Council

Title:	<b>Older People's Council</b>
Date:	<b>19 April 2016</b>
Time:	<b>10.15am</b>
Venue	<b>Room 122, King's House</b>
Members:	Bojczuk (Chair), Vincent, Morley, Eyles and Shields.  Goslett and Hazelgrove
Contact:	<b>Karen Amsden</b> Overview & Scrutiny Support Officer 01273 29-0450 kath.vlcek@brighton-hove.gov.uk



## Older People's Council – Our Mission and Vision

We are elected to serve older people. We work to ensure that all older people in Brighton & Hove are treated with respect and dignity and have access to services, support and the opportunity to lead a fulfilling life. We are working to create a city where: the contribution of all older people is acknowledged and valued; the needs of older people are recognised and met ; and older people are involved in making decisions that affect their daily lives and the communities in which they live.

**Brighton & Hove's Older People's Council in association with  
Age UK Brighton & Hove and Pensioner Action**



**AGENDA**

**192 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

Apologies and Declarations of Interest.

**193 MINUTES**

**1 - 8**

To consider (a) the minutes of the last meeting held on 15.03.16 and (b) matters arising from the minutes.

**194 ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

To hear from Cllr Daniel Yates, Chair of the Brighton & Hove Health & Wellbeing Board.

**195 TOWER HOUSE**

To hear from Karin Divall, Head of Adults Provider, BHCC.

**196 HOME CARE**

To hear from Jane MacDonald, Commissioning & Performance Manager, Adult Social Care, BHCC.

**197 COMMUNITY MEALS**

To hear from Judith Cooper, Commissioning & Performance Manager, Adult Social Care, BHCC.

**198 OPC WORK PROGRAMME**

**199 SECRETARY'S UPDATE**

**200 MEMBERS' UPDATE**

**201 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

## OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

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For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Karen Amsden, (01273 29-0450, email [Karen.amsden@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.amsden@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email [scrutiny@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

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**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL**

**10.15am 15 MARCH 2016**

**ROOM 320, KINGS HOUSE, GRAND AVENUE, HOVE, BN3 2LS**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mike Bojczuk (Chair), Colin Vincent, Penny Morley, Francis Tonks and John Eyles

**Co-opted Members:** Nick Goslett

**PART ONE**

**181 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

181. Apologies have been received from Councillor Barford, Lynne Shields and Jack Hazelgrove.

Francis Tonks told members that a previous member, Jim Buttimer, had sadly passed away. He would be a sad loss to the city.

**182 MINUTES**

182.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record. Matters arising were covered in subsequent agenda items.

**183 ADULT SOCIAL CARE- OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM BUDGET**

183.1 The Chair said that outstanding items included what was going to happen with Tower House and the clients there, what was happening with community meals and home care contracts.

183.2 The secretary suggested that correspondence was sent to the link councillor, Councillor Barford, and copying in Denise D'Souza, listing their concerns and asking what the plans were.

It was suggested that Anne Hagan be invited to the next OPC meeting in April to talk about Tower House. It was hoped that Councillor Barford might also be able to give an update on behalf of the administration. The Chair was also going to contact the Argus and the Brighton and Hove Independent about the OPC campaign successes re: the bus passes.

183.3 Colin said that he was aware that the community meals contract was under discussion but that the new providers would be maintaining the 'safe and well' checks, which was welcomed. This had been an OPC suggestion.

**184 CQC INSPECTION OF BRIGHTON & SUSSEX UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS TRUST**

184.1 The OPC had invited CQC inspectors to attend this committee meeting so they could discuss their experience with BSUH. This was not possible so the Secretary agreed to coordinate a response on behalf of OPC members and service users. She asked for any feedback to be sent as soon as possible so that a response could be sent after Easter.

184.2 Anecdotal reports included the time taken to make an appointment at the Eye Hospital (this was still outstanding as the system would not allow the booking); the time taken to discharge patients due to lack of move on facilities, and poor quality food.

184.3 Nick said that he had been on a number of Enter and View visits with Healthwatch, for him it was the delays in discharging patients that was the biggest issue.

184.4 The Secretary said that she had attended a meeting with Red Cross who were involved in the discharge procedure. Their role was to settle people back into their home. This was carried out successfully; the problem came in recruiting befrienders to visit isolated older people. OPC members were aware of a range of befriending organisations, but felt that the service was patchy and did not cover the whole city.

The Secretary said that she would raise befriending issues in her letter to Councillor Barford, as social isolation was a huge issue for older people.

184.5 Colin said that he felt the hospital Trust Board were not taking their fair share of responsibility for issues, in East Sussex for example, the Chair of the Board resigned when the hospital was not up to standard. Colin said that he would attend the next Trust Board meeting on behalf of the OPC to see what issues were covered.

184.6 Nick said that Hangelton and Knoll Health forum had held a workshop on patients' experiences. He offered to send this to the Secretary as part of the submission; this was welcomed.

**185 FAIRNESS COMMISSION**

185.1 The OPC had made two submissions to the Fairness Commission but had not been asked to speak formally at the FC meeting tomorrow. Speakers include 'Community navigators'; 'Crawley- a dementia friendly city'; an item on library services, and other health issues for older people.

There is also going to be time for two public open sessions, so OPC members are planning to raise their issues and recommendations at these sessions. They were disappointed that no speakers appeared to be focussing on social isolation.

185.2 OPC members were disappointed at the lack of older people or older people's organisations being chosen to speak publicly at the meeting. It felt like the FC meeting

considering young people, where most speakers were adults telling commissioners about younger people, not younger people themselves. This was reflected in the feedback from the young people FC meeting.

185.3 Nick said that he would be attending the meeting along with Hangelton and Knoll residents; Mike and Penny would also attend.

185.4 The Secretary said that, with regard to libraries in sheltered accommodation, she had been given to understand that it was not a very well used service but that those people who used it liked traditional books not digital ones. This did not seem to be reflected in the Libraries strategy which was to move towards digital services.

The Chair said that digital inclusion remained a huge priority for the city and for the council. He said that there had been national work by major banks including Barclays and Lloyds to improve digital inclusion especially for older people. There was not enough awareness of this though. There was a clear link between addressing social isolation and digital inclusion and it would be very beneficial to explore this further.

**186 AGE FRIENDLY CITY**

186.1 The Secretary and OPC members attending the AFC quarterly meeting recently, where they discussed older people, relationships and sexuality with researchers from the University of Manchester and the Terrence Higgins Trust.

It was a very well run and informative session, which gave attendees issues to think about which were not often raised. For example, Nick said that when promoting digital inclusion, he could refer to online dating as a possibility. Encouraging more relationships between older people might help some of the social isolation issues previously noted.

186.2 The ongoing problem regarding the lack of administrative support for the AFC Forum had not been addressed yet. Requests have been made for volunteers to come forward but no one had been found to date.

The Secretary was going to contact Annie Alexander from Public Health about the importance of AFC Forum, in gathering older people to talk about particular issues together. The Secretary would be looking to organise a meeting of the AFC forum for older people in April.

The Secretary also commented that the link between AFC and Age UK was critical; the link between AFC and with older people was key.

**187 OPC BUDGET**

187.1 The Chair said that he had an email from the former head of Policy confirming that the OPC's spendable budget (excluding officer support) was just under £2.000 for 2015-16. This was to cover room hire, printing costs, website, travel costs, National Pensioner Convention affiliation etc.

The Chair said that he hoped that the OPC would have enough budget remaining to cover the costs of an annual report (approx. £400). There was also a discussion about

having OPC leaflets with more information about who they are and what their aims are. This was agreed; the Chair said he would go forward with this.

**188 SECRETARY'S UPDATE**

- **Budget** - The budget has now been approved with cuts to Adult Social care across a range of services including Home Care, Community Meals & Tower House. The bus pass times are now to be unchanged & less cuts to public toilets.
- **Review of Senior Housing Consultation** - the OPC were invited to attend meetings with residents to discuss a new Senior Housing Assessment criteria for people wishing to go into senior housing. The new criteria emphasises that applicants be willing to participate in the community they are joining and this was supported by residents at the meeting I attended on the 23rd February.
- **Fairness Commission** - a second submission was made by the OPC and thanks to all members who commented. The session on Older People will be at Portslade Town Hall in Victoria Road at 6pm on the 16th March.
- **Age Friendly City** - a steering group meeting was held on the 3rd March on Sex & Relationships as we age. There was a presentation by David Lee, University of Manchester, on the English longitudinal study of ageing which looked at attitudes re men & women to sex & ageing. Also Terence Higgins trust locally have identified 633 people 50+ with HIV. There was a need for greater awareness & training and a recognition of ageist attitudes re sex & older people.
- The AFC Forum** - Age UK have put out a further call for a volunteer to service the forum and await response but we will need to discuss further.
- **CSTS Beds Procurement** - we have an email on 22nd February from CCG asking for our response on a range of questions re procurement.

**Outcome – OPC Secretary to draft response for circulation, to be sent to CCG this week.**

- **Combatting Loneliness - A guide for Local Authorities** - this publication has been circulated. Suggest that we raise with Cllr Barford re the response of the Council to this research.
- **City Wide Connect** - attended the North/Central meeting on the 9th March. Discussions held about mental health & falls. Useful exchange of information - Citizens UK are seeking to set up Brighton branch and have emailed us. There would appear to be insufficient befriending support - waiting lists for people referred. \*\*Colin will be attending the meeting.
- **Brighton & Hove City Plan** - now published and going to P&R on 17th March and full Council on 24th March. Planning news with further info also circulated by Chair.
- **East Sussex Elder Abuse Recovery Service (EARS)** - a new service available to Brighton & Hove residents. This is a specialist volunteering & befriending scheme - Carly Sneed 0208-8359294
- **OPC BHCC support** - Kath Vlcek is taking voluntary redundancy. OPC would like to thank her for all her work & wish her well for the future. Karen has circulated OPC



contact details and has proposed that we cancel August meeting due to lack of staff available.

**Outcome – to hold August meeting as members' meet up, no OSC support needed.**

- **Alzheimers Society** - OPC responded to an approach re their services. They have responded seeking dates - **suggest officers liaise to arrange meeting.** Also circulated a new Carers support group which has started - on 22nd March at Hove Library - 2pm to 4pm. Details circulated.
- **Economic Development & Culture Committee** - attended meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Library proposals agreed - some amendments as result of consultation e.g. Hollingbury - Old Boat Corner Community Centre will have some adult books. Report will go to full Council. A Zip wire to replace Brighton wheel.
- **Health & Well Being Board** - meeting at 4pm on 15th March will discuss joint Home Care contract with CCG & BHCC. Also paper on GPs update re The Practice has been circulated and will be discussed at the meeting.

### Invitations

- **Know My Neighbour Partnership Meeting** - they have asked OPC to sign up to partnership agreement. **Views ?** Can any OPC member attend on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 9.30 to 1.30 at One Church Brighton, Gloucester Place?
- **SERTUC** - Tuesday 15th March - Crisis in Care event at TUC Congress House with NPC & Shadow Minister for Older People, Social Care & Carers Barbara Keeley.
- **Southern Rail** - Invite to trial free train trip via meeting with OPC member Vice Chair Colin & John. They are offering on 18th, 23rd 24th & 29th March. All expenses paid including entry to attractions & lunch & travel. Friends/partners can also attend. \*\* **Agreed for 29 March; Colin to liaise with Southern Rail.**
- **Grace Eyre Campaign** - Stop the Government cuts to our benefits & services. Meeting on 15th March - invite circulated with video. Left supportive message to them as clashes with our meeting.
- **Links to OPC Web Site** - we have been approached by a number of organisations that wish to be linked to our website. These include Mesothelioma prognosis, TV Licensing Community team for South East, Evelo re bikes and exercise for elderly. **Agreed to keep not for profit links but not accept links from businesses etc.**

### Newsletters

- **Community Works** - CCG ran a Better Care event in February & links to presentation in the newsletter.
- **Later Life Newsletter** - report re digital inclusion in older life & downsizing.
- **Age Action Alliance** - highlighted Arts Council research into preventing loneliness & isolation in older age.

- **Fabrica** - Daytime events for adults in March & April - a diverse range of events circulated
- **Healthwatch** - currently recruiting a new CEO, Intelligence & Projects , HWS & H Manager and Communications officer going on maternity leave. The next CCG meeting on Tuesday 22nd March at 10.00 at Brighthelm.
- **DWP** - Help Carers to increase their State Pension - highlights that NI credits are available to carers of working age with details circulated with links to further info

## 189 MEMBERS' UPDATE

- Colin – has attended the Budget Council and found the venue very accessible. He attended OSC workshop on GP closures and said that he would circulate information arising from that meeting.
- Francis- the PPG is carrying out work on healthy eating; he chaired Pensioners' Association meeting where Andy Winter spoke about housing; planted a tree in Kempton, and attended a blue plaque unveiling. Also took part in research group into people who self fund care.
- Mike – still carrying out a lot of work on cancer awareness for Albion in the community; he is the face of prostate cancer! He has also been carrying out a lot of work regarding digital inclusion including running sessions. He is scheduled to run a session at Elizabeth Court, a sheltered scheme, and will enquire whether this can be expanded to other sheltered schemes in the city. He is updating the website, which is getting 300-400 views per month.
- Penny- see item 188 for information.
- John- Vallance Community centre is re-opening this weekend. He also attended two tree planting sessions, one with the mayoress, and one with Peter Kyle MP. He has been studying online, with a course called 'Successful Aging'.
- Nick –has been on holiday, but has also attended the Hangelton and Knoll Health forum.

## 190 OPC FORWARD PLAN & WORK PROGRAMME

- 190.1 The OPC Secretary said that outstanding items fell into two main areas, health and housing.
- 190.2 It was agreed that that the May OPC meeting in public would concentrate on health, inviting John Child, Chief Executive of Brighton and Hove CCG, to talk about the 5 year sustainability plan. They would also like to have a discussion about how to address suicide rates in older people, as this is at a worrying level.
- 190.3 April's OPC would focus on Tower House and community meals (please see item 183 above).
- 190.4 In June, they would like to hear from Public Health about falls prevention and also about how the Better Care Fund is operating.
- 190.5 Future items to be booked in include:  
 ASC assessment redesign  
 ASC contract monitoring and New Larchwood

Older people and isolation.

**191 AOB**

191.1 Outstanding contact details were shared.

191.2 There was a discussion about the Practice plc GP practices; more information was needed about the contract extensions agreed.

The meeting concluded at 1pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

