

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

10.15am Tuesday, 17 January 2017

MINUTES

Present: Colin Vincent (Chair), Penny Morley, John Eyles, Lynne Shields and Mike Bojczuk

Co-opted Members: John Cook, Nick Goslett, Michael Whitty and Jack Hazelgrove

Others Present:

PART ONE

269 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- 269.1 Apologies: Francis Tonks
No Declarations of interests

270 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 270.1 The minutes were approved, to make the following change Re: Para 263.14 to delete 'not' before 'to rise by'.

270.2 Matters arising

Re: Para 263.4 NG would like to know the total number of staff employed by BHCC. KA to contact HR to obtain a figure.

Re: Para 263.19 JC raised the issue of the cash collection parking issue. KA to find out if there has been a report on this to the Audit & standards Committee. This could potentially be addressed by a Freedom of Information request. The OPC agreed to pursue this issue. *KA has forwarded an email to OPC members about the Committee reports.*

Re: Para 263.8 PM to re-circulate the response from James Hengeveld.

271 GREY MATTERS

- 271.1 This issue was not discussed at the meeting due to time constraints.

- 272.1 Lynne Shields was nominated by Penny Morley to become the new Vice-Chair of the OPC and John Cook was nominated to become the Treasurer of the OPC and seconded by Lynne Shields.
- 272.2 The OPC then agreed to co-opt a fourth member onto the OPC, his name is Michael Whitty who is the Chair of the Withdean & Westdene LAT. He explained that he had been a founder member of the Withdean & Westdene Community Association for the past 20 years, which had formed in response to a community concern about a planning application. Their campaign had secured s106 funding which included 31 affordable homes, a nature reserve and a play park. He was concerned that this area was not represented in the OPC at present. It was prompted by his concern for older people, their possible isolation and need for care. He was working on the setting of a pilot group known as *Ageing, Alone & Vulnerable* who have been awarded £3000 by the council to launch a newsletter and set up a hub to help people in Withdean, Westdeane, Patcham & Hollingbury. This would involve agencies such as the Fire Service. NK expressed his interest in relation to Hangleton & Knoll. **PM to send MW a copy of the constitution and other relevant forms.**

273 OPC MEETING WITH COUNCILLOR MORGAN - REPORT BACK

- 273.1 At today's meeting the OPC were given a copy of a letter from Cllr Morgan about the council's intention to discontinue its financial and administrative support for the OPC. This confirmed in writing the information shared in their meeting with Cllr Morgan on the 10th January. Giles Rossington confirmed that the decision would be made at the Policy, Resources and Growth Committee Meeting on 9th February. Giles confirmed that this decision had been agreed at a cross party Leaders Meeting and was being made for financial reasons, due to the significant financial challenges faced by the council. He emphasised that while the council were no longer able to fund the OPC, they were hoping that it would be possible for the OPC to continue by finding alternative funding. The OPC would also continue to be co-optees on the committees they sat on.
- 273.2 Giles confirmed that the intention was to offer the OPC £5,000 for 2017/18 to help enable them to move to a position of being self-funded. He thought that it would be possible for the OPC to continue to meet at Hove Town Hall. He explained that one of the financial risks in relation to the OPC was the cost of future elections. While the last elections for the OPC cost £4,000, the risk cost was nine times more than this if all the areas were to be contested. However he believed that for the P&R report, the Finance Officer would look at the actual costs incurred in the last OPC election.
- 273.3 Giles explained to the OPC that they were entitled to put in a public question, petition or deputation to the P&R meeting on the 9th February. This would have to be submitted by the OPC to the Chief Executive, copied into Ross Keatley of Democratic Services by 12nd noon on the 2nd February.
- 273.4 The OPC also queried whether the work of the Age Friendly Cities would also continue and would the steering group have access to the OPC's input?

273.5 The discussion covered the origins of the OPC & electoral process, the need for administrative support, room bookings & costs, email address for OPC, direction of travel of local government and the response of the OPC to Councillors Morgan's letter re the future of the OPC.

274 SAFEGUARDING - GRAHAM BARTLETT, CHAIR OF ADULT SAFEGUARDING BOARD

274.1 Graham Bartlett introduced himself as the Chair of the Safeguarding Adult Board SAB) for Brighton & Hove, who is independent and so not employed by agencies such as the council, NHS or Police. He also is the Chair of the Safeguarding Children's Board for the city and the adult board in East Sussex, and his background is working for the police (Including Divisional Commander for 4 years). He was appointed to the SABs in June 2015, which were put on a statutory footing in the Care Act.

274.2 What is adult safeguarding?

'working with adults with care and support needs to keep them safe from abuse or neglect.'

3 key tests:

- Does the person have care and support needs? (it does not matter whether they are being met by the council or privately)
- Is the person experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect?
- As a result of their care or support needs, are they at risk or cannot protect themselves from abuse or neglect?

One would need to meet all three criteria to come under the remit of safeguarding. It is not a means for ensuring the quality of care, such as whether their medicine is being managed correctly, unless that this poorer quality of care means they meet the safeguarding criteria.

274.3 What is the SAB?

What it doesn't do:

- Provide or commission any services
- Hold a budget to take action

What it does do:

- Leads safeguarding arrangements across the system but does not duplicate work e.g. of the Head of Adult Social Care
- Takes a holistic view to ensure that people get the right services
- Becomes involved in reviewing serious, specific cases

- Promotes the values of the 'making safeguarding personal' which predated the Care Act. Previously safeguarding had been compliance led and is now centred on the wishes of the affected person e.g. whether they would wish the abuser to be punished, although criminal law may intervene. Agencies such as the council may be further on the journey of understanding this approach than others.

274.4 The SAB has 3 core duties:

- Producing an annual report to demonstrate how effective they have been
- Commissioning safeguarding adults reviews (SARs) e.g. where someone has died of abuse or neglect. These would have an independent chair and then they report to the Board.
- Develop and publish a strategic plan

274.5 The board meets quarterly on a formal basis and members include 3 statutory agencies – the council, Police and NHS (represented by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) as well as other bodies such as the Fire Service and Healthwatch. Karen Barford is the elected member who is their lead councillor. They also carry out a lot of other activities including a number of sub-groups (see attached chart supplied by GB).

274.6 A SAR (formerly a serious case review) would involve talking to the family and carers involved, assessing agency input and response and would make recommendations and conclusions aimed at preventing such a case happening again. They are a statutory requirement and in Brighton & Hove they would be published although this is not required. The first SAR is nearing completion and relates to a homeless person from outside the area who had complex needs and was experiencing mental health issues and was engaged with a range of issues. The report is due to be signed off in March.

274.7 What is the demand?

He explained the difficulty in comparing data from before the Care Act as the thresholds had been changed, but where possible they had tried to correlate the figures. Last year before the Act there had been 1,700 care alerts leading to **738** investigations, this year the comparative figure to investigations was the **1064** safeguarding enquiries (representing a 44% increase).

274.8 Questions to Graham Bartlett from OPC members

Who usually makes the safeguarding enquiry? He explained that they have to come into Adult Social Care (ASC) who would then either make the enquiry or cause another agency to do the enquiry. The majority of reports come from the police, care sector, and the mental health hospitals. Surprisingly low level of reports come from GPs and so training and awareness are thought to be the issue, a GP is to sit on the Board. If the case is reported to the Police or another agency, they will report the matter to ASC. The Board would not look at an individual case. If the person meets the 3 tests, then there would be a safeguarding enquiry. The responses range from a qualified social worker visiting to a major investigation, depending on what is the issue.

Is self-neglect or self-abuse included, such as hoarding? He confirmed that self-neglect is now covered by the Care Act and so is a safeguarding issue. For example the Fire Service often see cases of fire risk or rat infestation as a result, have a good system for Home Safety Checks and are very good at picking up on these issues. He stressed the importance of people reporting any cause for concern to ASC and then it is up to the agencies to decide if it is a safeguarding issue.

Are people suffering from dementia a significant part of your casework? It is estimated that there are 3,000 people with the condition in the city. The Board do not collect this data but the Care Act gives people the right to have an advocate if they have difficulties understanding the issues they are experiencing. So don't have feedback currently that people with dementia are waiting too long for support. Data shows that the highest category of primary support need of those subject to safeguarding enquiries is people with physical support needs.

What powers do the SAR recommendations have? Graham explained that it is a statutory report which is published and the Board was able to hold the agencies to account. He would hope that the adult process would move to being given the same powers for safeguarding children. His was a statutory post which reported directly to the council's Chief Executive, and links in with the Police and Crime Commissioner and CCG. While the Board did not have the power to put an agency into special measures, their recommendations were highly visible. With nearing the completion of their first review, the challenge is to make recommendations that will make a difference to peoples' lives.

Does the Board become involved in cases of Deprivation of Liberty (DOL)? While they do not report on specific data on DOLs, they have a sub-group to develop their understanding of the issue. In his experience this issue can have a significant impact on caseloads, such following the Cheshire West Judgement. So increasing numbers of best interest assessors are being trained. The Law Commission reviewing DOLs and their findings are expected to report back in a few months. A lot of work has been done in the last 2 years and issues, such as those being moved from care homes into hospital, have been highlighted by coroners.

274.9 The OPC offered to help the Board in building community awareness and capacity building. Graham agreed that the OPC could be really useful in providing community input. The Board was also developing a better geographical profile of needs e.g. by wards, or kind of need. It was agreed that Graham would ask the Police – Stu Hale, who leads the Engagement sub-group, to contact Karen Amsden about inviting the OPC to become involved. He also offered to send a copy of the Board's Annual Report to Karen once it was published.

275 OPC WORK PROGRAMME

275.1 This issue was not discussed at the meeting due to time constraints.

276 SECRETARY'S UPDATE

OPC SECRETARIAL REPORT - JANUARY 2017

- **OPC Matters** - Election of Vice-Chair on the agenda. Received an approach from Michael Whitty to be co-opted onto the OPC. Invited to attend January meeting and OPC will need to discuss & vote. OPC Contact details circulated by Karen as requested.
- **Grey Matters** - John Cook has been in talks with Grey Matters and circulated information about discussions. Grey Matters item on agenda.
- **Budget Briefing** - briefing drafted on the impact of proposed cuts on areas relating to older people with information from relevant Equality Impact Assessments. Circulated to OPC members with briefer statement drawn up for meeting with Council Leader. Budget P&R on 9th Feb with Budget Council on the 23rd February. **Discuss further action**
- **Meeting with Council Leader** - Meeting with Warren Morgan held on the 10th January re the Budget. Also Leader informed officers of the OPC that all political parties agreed to stop funding & supporting the OPC. They will assist in seeking alternative sources of funding & Councillor Emma Daniel will meet with us to discuss assistance. A letter would be sent to OPC with formal notification. **Item on the January OPC Agenda for discussion.**
- **Age Friendly Steering Group** - Minutes for the 14th December circulated. The next meeting on the 16th March on sensory impairment and older people. Action plan circulated & comments needed for Chair (Annie Alexander) re future work. **Active Ageing Fund** inviting applications for funding for projects that help older people get active. BHCC in talks to apply for funding. Proposed that information and publicity for the 40% reduction with Freedom Leisure pass for those on Pensioner Credit could form part of the bid. Food Partnership report on booklet being produced with CCG on nutrition & older people. Age UK report on Older People and malnutrition circulated. **Is Digital inclusion doing any work linked to food?**
- **Age Friendly Forum** - Meets at Age UK and next meeting at 10.15 on Monday the 27th February. Will discuss issues for forthcoming period re AFC to feed into the Steering Committee. All welcome.
- **Dementia Cafe** - organised by John Cook an Xmas event on the 21st December at Maycroft Manor in Carden Avenue, Patcham. Those with dementia & carers attended, residents & non-residents, plus OPC members, with an excellent singer who facilitated dancing and a good time was had by all.
- **Transport** - John Cook contacted Councillor O'Quinn, who spoke at December OPC public meeting, re taxi services for those with dementia & carers attending Dementia cafe. James Hengeveld wrote after his presentation to OPC correcting his statement at the meeting with regard to concessionary bus farer which cost £10.5 million albeit a surplus of £12.6 million is made from parking.
- **Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)** - Emma Snowden, Engagement officer wrote to apologise for the wrong video being shown at Caring Together event on 16th Nov.

This was an example from US health system which the audience did not appreciate!
Adam Doyle CCG Chief Accountable Officer and CCG now located at Hove Town Hall.

- **Fuel Poverty** - on-line learning links circulated. Brighton & Hove has 15,000 homes in fuel poverty. Contact 01273 291405 or rebecca.jones@nea.org.uk for info on Keeping Warm in Winter Event in Hastings on the 19th January at Hastings Council Chamber.
- **Healthwatch** - Report on Patient Transport with 60 renal patients re service from Coperforma was circulated. Calling for a public facing explanation on how service was commissioned and how much it has cost local people.
- **Fairness Commission** - Recommendations for implementation circulated. OPC priorities were preventing social isolation, ensuring city makes better progress in its aim to be an age friendly city with Brighton & Hove aiming to be an accessible city by 2020 and Digital exclusion as digital only is excluding many older residents. Possibility People supported OPC re access & will need to follow up with Councillor Daniel.
- **Economic Development & Culture Committee** - attended on 12th January. Fees increase across range of services agreed. Proposal that Freedom Leisure be approached to raise to 50% reduction for those on limited incomes. Officers agreed to take away & discuss with Freedom Leisure.
- **Befriending** - A central contact point has been agreed to tackle social isolation. This is a joint venture between Impetus, Impact Initiatives and Time to Talk befriending. The contact will direct people to the most suitable service where they live. The one stop number is 01273 229005 or contact@befriending.org. The service is supported by CCG and Community Works. Please circulate number & email details widely within local communities.
- **Local Action Team (London Road)** attended meeting in January. Discussed lack of PCSOs and issues re drugs at Level, Equinox outlined support for street drinkers & rough sleepers team contact. Problem of HMOs spreading & being unregistered. Viaduct Road mess in front gardens. Communicating with local community. University representatives will take up landlord issues if their students.

Invitations

- **Sussex Beacon** - cuts to service proposed yet service recently judged to be outstanding by CQC. Petition opposing cuts circulated for support. Given the rise of HIV in people over 50 this is very concerning.
- **Albion in the Community** - Two free tours of American Express Community Stadium on January 26th at 2.00 & January 27th at 10.30 for men aged 50+. Tour will include health information re signs of early cancer . Contact Sue Brown on 01273-878261 or sue.brown@albioninthecommunity.org.uk
- **Shoreham Harbour Joint Action Plan** - Consultation till 10th February. See consultation@shorehamharbour.com. Contact 01273-263000. Consultation event on 25th January at Southwark Community Centre at 7pm.
- **Free HIV & Ageing Awareness Training** - over 50s fastest growing group living with HIV. Session on 23rd February at 10am to 1.00. Contact alice.booth@tht.org.uk or 07769239295.

- **Hove Stress Busters** at Cornerstone Community Centre, Church Road Hove. Details of events in 2017 in Newsletter circulated.
- **CQC Consultation** - on their role as regulator which closes on 14th February. Second consultation in Spring 2017 re adult social care.
- **Elder Abuse Recovery Services (EARS)** in East Sussex is seeking volunteers. Contact Gail Shanahan 07508823975 or gailshanahan@elderabuse.org.uk
- **Video of Local Communities** - John Cook has circulated an invitation. A production team are creating a programme about positive activities in local communities. Suggestions & volunteers contact John for further information.
- **Urgent Need Advocacy Service** - launching on Wednesday 18th January at BRIGHTHEM at 4pm. new LGBTQ service. Meet the team & hear what they have been doing. Contact 01273 234 839 or info@mindout.org.uk
- **Shape Up at the Hop** - Free weekly exercise classes for those aged 60+. Learn about eating well as you age. Starts Wednesday 1st February at 11- 12.30. Contact 01273431703 or healthyweight@bhfood.org.uk
- **Sing Healthy Play Happy** - a free dementia friendly creative music group for people of all abilities. Taster sessions on 20th January at Walter May House at 11.00, 27th January at 1.30 at Duke of Yorks cinema and Monday 30th January at 11.00 at Fabrica, Duke Street. Contact info@openstrings.co.uk
- **Cooking & Gardening Groups for people with dementia** - BH Food Partnership. Five week cookery starts on the 16th February & Gardening from 28th February. Contact Sarah Davenport on 01273-431700 or <http://bhfood.org.uk/dementia-friendly-food-projects>
- **Men In Sheds** - Sessions every Wednesday 3pm to 5pm. Located between Brighton College Eastern Road & Leach Court. They would welcome visits from OPC members. Clare Hankeson Project Manager Fabrica 01273-778646.

Newsletters

- **Know Your Neighbour** Newsletter with their activities in 2016. One Church is no longer able to host in 2017.
- **Trust for Developing Communities** - Annual Report identifying challenges in next 3 years re funding.
- **National Pensioners Convention** - Useful Triple Lock Campaign Briefing circulated. State Pension as a % of full time earnings has only risen from 21.8% to 23.6% - just over 1.8% in 15 years. The UK state pension is one of the least adequate in the developed world ranking 32nd out of 34 OECD countries. Campaign issue re Adult Social Care and the precept. Number of people getting social care from Local councils fell by 26% to 850,000 in the four years to 2014.
- **Age UK** - thank you for supporting campaigns re cold Park Homes & need for energy efficiency. Need for the Attendance allowance to stay at National level .Loneliness and impact on health.

COLIN VINCENT (CHAIR)

14/12/16 Attended Age Friendly City Steering Group Meeting with Penny Lynne. Impact Initiatives who ran the Older Peoples Festival on behalf of the Council considered the event was a success and was well attended. They are in the process of producing a report for circulation. Report from Healthy Aging Team referring to recent NICE report that nationally 3 million people aged between 40-55 suffering from malnutrition. Data check to be setup by Council on patients admitted to hospital locally who may be affected by that condition. Easy Link Community Transport: work being undertaken on behalf of a number of volunteer organisations eg. Lifelines.

Food Partnership Team Report: Lay Assessors visits arranged to users of meals service. Food poverty plan to be drawn up. Four weekly healthy eating courses for older men to be arranged. Active Aging Team: Sport England providing funding for older peoples activities, details to be followed up.

20/12/16 Grey Matters studio: Interviewed members of the Council Public Health falls prevention team. Becky Woodywiss, Sarah Podmore and Kate Dimlow Physiotherapist Sussex NHS Community Foundation Trust who gave an outline of the services provided for older people. They also responded patiently to questions put by the interviewer. The Recorded programme will be broadcast early in early February

4/1/17 Officers Meeting: Discussion included, OPC response to Fairness Commission priorities programme.

10/1/17 Meeting with Warren Morgan (see report circulated by Penny)

12/1/17 Attended LATS Chairs meeting. Disturbing report from Police Commissioner that Community Support Officers due to an HQ decision to change the role of PCSO across the City that they would not routinely attend LATS meetings in future. There was also strong criticism of the non urgent police 101 call system due to delays in obtaining a response. The Commission accepted the complaints were justified and said she had previously raised the issue with the service provider but would raise the matter again.

13/1/17 Attended initial meeting of the HOSC Sustainability and Transformation Plan Working Group as one of three co-opted members.

Outline of Plan revealed, discussion over term. of reference for working group decision that meetings would be held in public as the default position. but some evidence may be heard in private Regular report back to full HOSC meetings. Watch this space.

Mike Bojczuk:

- Continued Homeless Night Shelter work
- Took digital inclusion sessions at Senior Housing Schemes - Ditchling Gardens, Elizabeth Court, Somerset Point, Left OPC leaflets.
- Attended Dementia Cafe, Patcham for their Christmas celebration.
- Attended Senior Housing Action Group meeting. Replacement new laundry machines are being rolled out across all schemes over the next month. Upgrading studio flats to one bed flats is continuing. Guest room uptake rules and procedures to be reviewed.

Lynne Shields:

There have been a number of Officers Meetings during January. The Meeting with Warren Morgan will be well covered in the rest of the minutes.

January 17th

The Brunswick and Adelaide Local Action Team Meeting.

This meeting was chaired by the two Green Councillors Ollie Sykes and Phelim Mac Cafferty. There were 35 people attending due to the visit by The Police Commissioner Katy Bourne. The focus of the meeting was the threat posed to property and person by the groups of drinkers and drug takers in the Squares of Brunswick and Adelaide.

Obviously the problem was not great in the winter because of the seasonal weather. The real problems occur when the weather improves. A number of action points came out of the meeting. A request to challenge the police on their attitude to confiscating alcohol in designated places and a challenge to the Licensing Committee when granting licences to yet more cafes and bars serving alcohol.

There was no little discussion about general community development. None about the needs of the elderly. I will raise these issues at the next LAT Meeting in April.

19th January

Age UK Brighton and Hove Research

In support of research relating to District Nurses.

Four of us older people were asked to review a research plan.

The research should provide a very useful guide in improving communication between home nursing staff and "frail people living at home". The group were able to persuade the researcher that whilst it is necessary for the academic work to meet the stringent requirements of the Nursing and Midwife ruling body it can only be carried out successfully if a less academic approach is adopted.

Less is more (paperwork and signed acceptance of terms etc) and the "human contact and communication" essential.

January 23rd

Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Meeting at Whitehawk Library

There was a presentation by Sanctuary By Sea (City of Sanctuary)

This was a very impressive presentation about the work being done by a small group of volunteers to support the various refugees seeking sanctuary in Brighton and Hove.

With just £5000 they have achieved a great deal and will no doubt attract subsequent funding in light of their achievements thus far.

Progress Report on the Trans Needs Assessment Action Plan.

This was a very comprehensive Progress Report. I am happy to share my hard copy if required or the report is available on the Council website.

The Brighton and Hove City Council Equality and Inclusion Policy Statement and Strategy

The purpose of Report is to refresh and update the Council's previous Policy 2012 – 2015 is makes for interesting reading in light of our present predicament.

Page 99 of this document deals with the intention of the Council to ensure that all budgetary decisions are informed by the Equality Impact Assessments.

“Understanding Communities views is essential and before final decisions are taken on budget decisions we consult with partners and community groups”.

The full report is available on the website.

278 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 1pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of