

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL
10.15am 12 SEPTEMBER 2017
JUBILEE LIBRARY - PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES

Present: Colin Vincent (Chair), Mike Bojczuk, Penny Morley, Lynne Shields and Francis Tonks

Co-opted Members: John Cook (Older Peoples Council), Jack Hazelgrove (Older People's Council) and Michael Whitty

Others Present:

PART ONE

329 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

329.1 Apologies were received from John Eyles and from Mike Bojczuk.

330 WELCOME TO THE AGM

330.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the OPC AGM.

331 MINUTES

331.1 Michael Whitty noted that point 325.1 in the draft minutes of the July meeting refer to Grey Matters being in receipt of a grant of £2000. This is inaccurate and the minute will be amended to reflect this.

331.2 The minute of the OPC meeting of 18 July 2017 was agreed and signed as an accurate record subject to the amendment detailed at 331.1 above.

331.3 There was discussion of the Open Market toilets. The Chair had been unable to contact the Councillor responsible, but will endeavour to do so soon. It was agreed that the

Chair would also seek to make contact with the market manager to argue that access to the toilets must be improved. **Action**

332 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

332.1 Colin Vincent was nominated as Chair and was unanimously elected.

332.2 Michael Whitty was nominated as Vice Chair and was unanimously elected.

332.3 Mike Bojczuk was nominated as Treasurer and unanimously elected.

332.4 There were no nominations for the post of Secretary. The Chair and all OPC members expressed their gratitude for the exceptional work that Penny Morley has done whilst in this post. This was echoed from the floor.

333 ANNUAL REPORT

333.1 Members noted that this year's annual report has been published.

334 THE BIG CONVERSATION - CARING TOGETHER IN BRIGHTON & HOVE (OUR SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSFORMATION PARTNERSHIP)

334.1 This item was introduced by Thomas Gurney, Head of Communications, Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and High Weald Lewes Havens CCG. Mr Gurney gave a presentation on the development of the Sussex and East Surrey (SESA) Sustainability & Transformation Partnership (STP).

334.2 Mr Gurney told members that there was currently no overarching STP-wide plan. There are detailed locality plans (e.g. for Brighton & Hove Caring Together), and there is thematic planning across the footprint (e.g. for mental health and for urgent care), but there is no grand plan as such.

334.3 One of the aims of the STP is to ensure that there is consistent quality of care across the SESA area. However, there may still be inconsistency of care between SESA and other regions: STPs are not intended to introduce standardised care nationally.

334.4 The STP will also seek to make healthcare more patient-focused. In the past, NHS services have often been designed for the convenience of staff rather than patients.

334.5 The STP needs to address really significant quality issues. This is particularly so at Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Trust (BSUH) which is in Special Measures for both quality and finances, and is consistently failing to hit targets for A&E waiting times,

elective Referral to Treatment times (RTT) and cancer waits. East Sussex Healthcare Trust (ESHT), which runs general hospitals in Eastbourne and St Leonards is also in Special Measures. In addition, several local CCGs are struggling, with Horsham & Mid Sussex now under Legal Directions (the CCG equivalent of Special Measures). Brighton & Hove CCG was under Legal Directions, but has recently been up-rated to 'good'.

- 334.6 The SESA area is facing increasing demand without the prospect of equivalent funding increases. The financial challenge is very significant, but this is not just about money. It is also about ensuring that the available resources are used as efficiently as possible, that pointless duplication is eliminated and that all local health and care organisations work together effectively.
- 334.7 STP communications were poorly handled in the early stages of the initiative. This was largely because there was actually very little to report in the early months, but much more should have been done to engage with the public. Now that more concrete ideas are emerging there is the real potential for valuable engagement and this is now being progressed. It should be noted that Brighton CCG is the only CCG in the SESA area that is engaging on the whole STP rather than just its local STP plans. This is in response to local public interest. In terms of formal consultation rather than engagement, there is to date nothing that requires consultation (e.g. no significant service changes have been identified).
- 334.8 In response to queries about privatisation, Mr Gurney explained that there has been a significant independent sector presence in the NHS for many years (e.g. GP practices, which are profit-making small businesses). NHS procurement laws also mean that it is impossible to rule out any contract being awarded to an independent sector provider. However, the SESA STP is not designed to increase privatisation of local health services. There are specific public worries about Accountable Care models, since these are often associated with the insurance-based American healthcare system. However, the NHS is so complex, and offers so little remuneration for providers, that it is really not an attractive proposition for private healthcare concerns. Similarly, although in theory Multi-Disciplinary Community Provider (MCP) contracts could be awarded to independent sector providers, the MCP initiative is not designed to increase private sector presence in the local health economy.
- 334.9 The Chair thanked Mr Gurney for attending the meeting.

335 THE FUTURE OF THE OPC

- 335.1 This item was introduced by Penny Morley, who outlined three options for the future of the OPC:
- Beginning conversations with like-minded community & voluntary sector organisations in order to plan for a future without council funding
 - Continuing to lobby Councillors to restore funding
 - Vote to dissolve the OPC.

Ms Morley noted that when previously discussed by OPC members at a business meeting, the favoured option was Option 1.

335.2 Members discussed whether further lobbying Councillors was likely to prove productive. Ms Morley argued that it was not, as two of the three political groups had recently voted to discontinue OPC funding at a Policy, Resources & Growth Committee meeting and were unlikely to have altered their stance since then.

335.3 Jack Hazelgrove proposed that Option 2 be amended: the OPC should continue in its present form until early 2019 (using the £5K transitional funding offered by the council to cover 18/19 support costs), and should then lobby all candidates for the 2019 local elections, seeking restoration of financial support.

335.4 There was debate as to whether option 1 would be feasible, with no OPC Secretary in position to undertake negotiation with potential partners. Lynne Shields suggested that some of the transitional funding could potentially be used to make the post of Secretary a paid position.

335.5 Members also discussed: using lower cost meeting venues (a Care Home in Carden Avenue has offered free use of a room); and drafting a new OPC constitution (the Chair confirmed that Mike Bojczuk has offered to do this).

335.6 It was agreed that the decision on options should be deferred until the next OPC Business meeting (October 2017), and that no speaker should be booked for this meeting so as to give plenty of time for debate.

336 OPC WORK PROGRAMME

337 GREY MATTERS

338 SECRETARY'S UPDATE

338 SECRETARIAL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2017

- **Age Friendly City** - the September steering group meeting was postponed as Annie Alexander, the Chair of the Steering Group, had yet to be replaced. We understand that her replacement is David Brindley who will start late September.

The AFC Forum met at Age UK on the 4th September. We met with the new, interim, Chief Executive of Age UK, Bernadette Ashcroft who is in post for 6 months and will be organising the appointment for a full time Chief Executive.

The forum wants to decide which issues to prioritise for discussions with the new Chair of the Steering Group. The next meeting of the Forum will be on Monday 23rd October at Age UK at 10.30.

- **Older People's Festival** - this runs from the 25th September to the 8th October and is being organised by Impact Initiatives. The OPC are in discussions re an intergenerational debate at Portslade Aldridge Community Academy on the 28th September. Festival programmes should be available and also see **opf.org.uk** .
- **Annual Report** - drafted by OPC members with design and print by BHCC. Thanks to all OPC members and Justin in design and print for all the work involved.
- **Community Works** - The new Chief Executive is Jess Sumner, previously at Age UK. We shall be seeking a meeting with Jess in the near future.
- **Tower House** - OPC members lobbied hard about the future of Tower House when the Council decided to withdraw the service. We are pleased that St Vincent de Paul has taken over the running of Tower House and will be providing facilities for older people including lunches. They are looking for volunteers - contact **vickyh@svp.org.uk** or 0755 7562718. The official opening is on the 19th September at 4pm.
- **Consultation on Private Rented Housing Licensing Scheme proposals** – A response was sent to BHCC from the OPC, thanks to Michael Whitty for the detailed focus on fire safety in these properties.
- **Active for Life** - A meeting was held on the 6th September to discuss a range of issues concerning older people with Freedom Leisure and BHCC officers. The OPC were particularly concerned about the take up of the Leisure Card with a 40% reduction for those on Pension Credit and / or Attendance Allowance. A communication campaign is underway with leaflets and a Grey Matters radio interview & social media. Also discussed a range of activities and ways to get older people active. A further meeting is planned in 2018 to evaluate any improved take up as a result of the campaign.

Events

- **Working Together** -workshop for people who are deaf on Wednesday 27th September at 4.30 to 7.30 at Brighthelm. Contact valerie.harper@brighton-hove.gov.uk

- **Brighton & Hove Big Health Conversation** - on GP practices on Wednesday 27th September at 10.00 to 13.00 at Friends Meeting House. Also a Focus Group on Extended Hours on Wednesday 4th October at 18.00 to 20.00 at Friends Meeting House. Contact meg.lewis@nhs.net or 0127-238743.
- **Active Forever** - Tuesday 3rd October a free event for older people at the King Alfred Leisure Centre from 10.00 to 1.00. A taster event with a range of activities, stalls and talks.
- **Trust for Developing Communities** - AGM on Thursday 12th October at Brighthelm at 6.00. Contact katharinetrevelyan@trustdevcom.org.uk or call 01273 262220.

Newsletters/Information

- **Age Action Alliance** - transferred to Employers Network for Equality & Inclusion in August. Previously DWP & Age UK and in transition will be assisted by English Age Network and International Longevity Centre UK. Newsletter should continue.
- **Healthwatch** - press release re overall rating for the Royal Sussex has changed from Inadequate to Needs Improvement. The hospital remains in special measures with 60 issues needing action. The two local hospitals have a £67m deficit.
- **Strike a Light** - Life History Book course at Strike a Light Studio in Open Market on Thursdays in September.
- **Care Quality Commission** - monthly update re mental health issues, Annual Report and Local system reviews of health & social care. 12 Local Authorities in review which includes East Sussex but not Brighton & Hove.
- **Digital Brighton & Hove** - newsletter - they are appointing a new Project Manager. Information about campaign at DigitalBH@citizensonline.org.uk.
- **Age UK** - Medicines a report on Older Peoples experience in Brighton & Hove August 2017.
- **Friends, Facilities & Travellers Newsletter** - info re petition against use of Public Space Protection Orders on Gypsies & Travellers.

339 MEMBERS' UPDATE

339.1 Colin Vincent (OPC Chair):

31/7 Meeting with Emma McDermott, Updated her on OPC latest position regarding our future. Discussion on funding post April 2018 and options relating to drawdown from £5k funding support.

2/8 Took part in Grey Matters interview recording session at the Men In Sheds workshop at Brighton Youth Centre

7/8 Represented the OPC at the Participation and Engagement Sub Committee meeting of the Local Safeguarding Board.

15/8 OPC Officers to again discuss a background paper about future options, Penny asked to re-draft for next monthly meeting.

21/8 Attended Grey Matters Board Meeting, Proposals for a contributory membership scheme, grants, new equipment, publicity, website and facebook page also the possibility of new weekly programmes in 2018.

4/9 AFC Forum meeting at Age UK attended by acting CEO Bernadette Ashcroft who was previously seconded to Manchester City Council to continue to develop their AFC communities investment programme. Next Forum meeting cancelled until the Council's new public health lead takes up his post.

5/9 Attended meeting of the NPC SE Regional Officers held at the Unite office in Crawley, matters discussed included events in celebration of older peoples day on 1st October and local campaigns raising awareness of the implications of STP.

10/9 HOSC Committee meeting as a co-opted member, Rob Percy Director combining Health and Social Services reported growing equality gap in City, increase in deprivation of liberty cases and a review of the direct payment system Brighton and Hove behind on the take up rate.

I asked if he would provide the Committee with details of how the Social Service Precept had been allocated. RP agreed to make the information available.

340 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

340.1 A member of the public asked whether the OPC would lobby for a simplification of the rent a bike scheme so that users do not require a smart-phone.

340.2 There was also discussion of the re-routing of buses during the road works on North Street. The OPC were not consulted about this. A member of the public also noted that new buses introduced to the fleet have grey grab rails rather than yellow ones, despite it having been made clear to the bus company that grey rails are not appropriate for bus users with visual impairments.

The meeting concluded at Time Not Specified

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

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