

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

10.15am 21 MARCH 2017

JUBILEE LIBRARY

MINUTES

Present: Colin Vincent (Chair), Mike Bojczuk, Francis Tonks, John Eyles and Lynne Shields

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

Others Present:

PART ONE

288 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

288.1 There were no apologies for the meeting and no declarations of interest.

289 ROB PERSEY - HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

289.1 Rob Persey (RP) began by explaining that he had started working for the council in January 2017, after working in Adult Social Care (ASC) for 10 years and prior to that Cultural Services, Town Planning and the Sports Council. He valued culture as well as public health and was concerned that non-statutory services were vulnerable to cuts, but were safer if aligned to the work of ASC and Children & Young People (CYP). There was a focus on the whole population in this city in relation to Public Health and ASC.

289.2 His first impression was of city that was strong on engagement and consultation and engagement. Performance figures revealed that the council was in a broadly strong position, with no service failures or issues to address straight away. It was a positive place to work in which had developed good partnerships, and the siting of the council and the CCG was an opportunity to strengthen their working together. The previous head of ASC had retired last year, along with a number of other key officers, so it was vital to maintain stability at a time of change. Although there had been 10 years of austerity, this was likely to continue.

289.3 There were around 38,000 people aged over 60 in the city, but it was difficult to predict how demand for services would change in the next five years and the factors which would affect demand. They were looking at how service improvements could impact on demand, as well as demand management. The council has a statutory responsibility to provide ASC for those in need, but believed that prevention was also vital.

289.4 RP explained that there were 3 priorities for the service:

- Maximising resource utilisation – Budget and Performance
- Taking forward in partnership Health and Social Care integration
- Focusing on 'Wellbeing' Giving emphasis to prevention

Staff were the most important resource. The recent £2bn additional resources for ASC announced by central government was welcomed but this was not the answer, although it would help councils for the next few years. BHCC was in a more positive situation than many other councils. Performance would be a focus in 2017/18 because there was room for improvement, such as in direct payments and delayed transfers of care.

289.5 The council was working closely with the CCG (including Adam Doyle, the new Chief Accountable Officer) on integration health and ASC and Caring Together was the key way to brand and deliver our services. There was to be an increased push on prevention and well-being. It was a concern that there was greater awareness of the need for a healthy lifestyle but drinking and obesity were increasing.

289.6 An officer was working on consultation and engagement, particularly with carers and ensuring integration. It was vital to have the right consultation at the right stage. The main purpose is to ensure that people understand why things are happening and a person-centred approach was key when the services are for such vulnerable people. The community is part of the solution so we need to be aware of the community assets. Living longer was a challenge for service providers but there was the opportunity to live more healthily.

Questions to Rob Persey

Q: Can we call upon your support for the changing circumstances facing the OPC?

RP: Recognise the important role of the OPC, however in previous job a similar group for Wandsworth/Richmond had their funding withdrawn which they believed was the right thing to happen as had the capacity to continue. There are few locations where the OPC would get the level of support they currently receive.

RP then confirmed that Caring Together was the place-based part of the Sustainable Transformation Plan (STP).

Q: Are you concerned about the assumptions which lie behind the cuts to some of the services, such as those for frail people or excess bed days for people over 75? There would be a £112m cuts in the region's ASC by 2021.

RP: It will be very challenging for ASC, but the city was not in the same position as the other 7 CCG areas. He emphasised that the STP was a developing process, rather than a plan to be signed off. It had not yet been to the CCG governing body and the focus from the ASC side will be working to deliver their statutory responsibilities.

Q: There are large gaps between the life expectancy of people living in different locations in the city, 25% of pensioners are in receipt of Pensioner Credit and there are increasing numbers of people with dementia. While investment in technology is important, aren't people based services the answer rather than ICT?

RP: With people living longer and more healthily, those inequalities are reducing. The focus of the Public Health report this year will be prevention, including reducing the life expectancy gap. While ICT is not the answer, it can make a useful contribution.

Q: There should be a public engagement meeting which looks in detail at the STP. Why is a disability workshop, including Remploy (which provides day time activities for people with disabilities), being held by the Children & Young People's (CYP) service in the council?

RP confirmed that services for people with learning disabilities have now been transferred to CYP. There is likely to be joint commissioning of LD services by ASC, CYP and the CCG. He is extremely concerned about employment issues, for example for those with LD or sensory impairment and wants to take a whole council approach to deliver meaningful jobs.

Q: Given the budgetary issues faced by ASC, how many care providers have either closed down or stopped providing services in the city?

RP: The city's situation was very different from in London, no contractors or providers have closed down or offered their contracts back to BHCC. The future workforce is a key concern and ensuring a career path and workforce development. He had met with colleagues in East and West Sussex and we seemed to have a more sustainable workforce and paid relatively well.

Q: What is the difference between consultation and engagement?

RP: Both are equally important. This meeting was engagement, because not consulting on a specific service issue.

Q: How many staff are you losing and are you consulting with unions? What about the role of the OPC and other voluntary groups?

RP: There were no planned staff reductions at the moment, and had met with both Unison and the GMB in his first month at the council. Had been to the Volunteering Centre and met Possability People too, because volunteers play a vital role as well as organisations such as the OPC – many of whom have continued without direct financial support. Please invite me back in the summer to give a progress update.

290 OPC WORK PROGRAMME

291 OPC BUDGET UPDATE

OPC Budget Actions:

2016

6th December - OPC wrote to all three political parties outlining our concerns about the budget and cuts to Adult Social Care and also raised our concerns about the cuts to Youth Services.

6th December - sought meeting with Council Leader to discuss our concerns about the budget.

8th December - PR&G meeting on budget where whole raft of proposals across all services was put forward - a great read of 883 pages! The Equality Impact Assessments are key to understanding the likely impact of service cuts and need to be scrutinised.

13th December - OPC Public Meeting with James Hengeveld from BHCC Finance to explain the basis of the Council budget and where monies are spent and proposed changes.

21st December - Agreed meeting for 10th January with Council Leader

2017

10th January 2017 - OPC Budget brief circulated and shortened version used as basis for Agenda for meeting with Councillor Morgan. We raised with him issues around the cuts of over £13 million to Health & ASC budget impacting on Assessment & Intervention Team, Occupational Therapy, Community Equipment Service, Ireland Lodge Woodingdean, Wayfield Avenue Hove, Tower House, Community Transport, Health Improvement, Public Transport and Public Toilets. We also requested a link Councillor for the OPC as this had not been filled for some time.

23rd/25th January - OPC action plan re budget - a number of OPC members wrote to their Local Councillors and/or MPs. Press brief sent to The Argus, Brighton Independent and Brighton & Hove News.

30th January - Article in The Argus "Campaigners: cuts will hit those most in need - warning that elderly & vulnerable face greatest risk"

6th February - OPC Chair and Secretary undertake Latest TV interview with Frank Le Duc expanding on our concerns about the budget & future of the OPC.

7th February - Letter to every Labour Councillor pre-PR&G meeting re budget impacts on ASC with brief/s, plus our principled objections to BHCC withdrawing administrative support to the OPC as from April 2018.

9th February - PR&G meeting - OPC members asked a range of public questions re: Fairness Commission & Older People, Tower House, Adult Social Care, Dementia & Mental Health facilities, Community Transport & Proposal to Discontinue BHCC support for OPC.

17th February - OPC received via Councillor Barford a Health & Adult Social Care response to the OPC brief about the budget.

23rd February - Full Council Budget meeting - some monies put back into Community Transport for Easylink, Community Safety Team, Youth Service & Voluntary Sector via a range of amendments to the budget proposals

292 THE FUTURE OF THE OPC - DISCUSSION

292.1 The OPC began by handing out the following statement to all those present at the meeting:

'FUTURE OF OPC - DECISION BY BHCC TO WITHDRAW ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT & REMOVE SUPPORT FOR ELECTIONS - BACKGROUND & ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- There had been a previous attempt to remove support from the OPC under the previous administration however they had put the proposal in the budget papers.
- So, OPC officers were very surprised to be informed by the Leader of the Council on the 10th January that a decision had been taken at the previous night's Leaders meeting to withdraw administrative support from the OPC as from the 1st April 2017. We objected and asked to be informed of this decision in writing.

- We received written notification from Councillor Warren Morgan on the 17th January stating that BHCC would cease providing administrative support from the 1st April 2017 and would stop funding future OPC elections. The OPC would be given £5,000 in 2017/18 but all funding would cease after this and that this had been discussed and agreed with the Leaders Group.
- The OPC wrote to the other two political parties leaders i.e. Green and Conservative seeking confirmation that this was their view. We received a response from Councillor Theobald confirming that this was the view of the Conservative Councillors and that he had never agreed with an OPC in the first place. However, Councillor Mac Cafferty, Leader of the Greens stated that he did not support this decision.
- OPC officers then sought a meeting with relevant officers to discuss and make our case against this decision. We met with the Head of Democratic Services and Head of Life & Electoral Services and a senior Scrutiny Officer and expressed our view that the Council was completely in breach of its own consultation procedures. This was because no consultation had taken place with the OPC nor any older people in the City about the removal of support nor of the electoral rights that they currently had to vote for their representatives.
- We were invited to meet with the Leader of the Green Party which officers did and provided a brief on the background to the OPC and our objections to the proposal.
- Subsequently a paper went to the Policy Resources & Growth Committee on the 9th February entitled "Proposal to Discontinue BHCC Support for the Older People's Council (OPC)". Due to OPC representations they were now proposing to withdraw support from the 1st April 2018 rather than 2017. However, despite our representations, the Labour & Conservative Councillors on the Committee agreed to discontinue support from April 2018. This decision has now disenfranchised over 37,000 older people in the City without any consultation with them. It was also taken despite the Constitution of the OPC outlining its purpose being to inform the policy and decision making of the BHCC including service development, delivery and resource allocation, with regard to matters that impact on the quality of life and the opportunities available for older people living in the Brighton & Hove area.

Proposal - That OPC officers seek a meeting with the Chief Executive of BHCC to ensure that he understands our continual objection to the decision and its impact on older people. We will also need to discuss the range of implications relating to this decision.

Options for the future for consideration and decision at a later date:-

Carry on campaigning against this decision and discuss a range of options for representation with the Council concerning the current Zones structure and whether the Electoral Reform Society could provide ideas to reduce the costs of the electoral process.

Seek further grant funding to continue as an organisation based in the voluntary sector and decide how to establish representation that can be supported by older people without the current electoral structure.

292.2 The debate began with concern expressed that the link councillor for the OPC was not able to attend today's meeting. The OPC were not aware for the proposal to withdraw its funding until they met with Cllr Morgan, as it was not in the budget papers. A letter from Cllr Morgan was on the OPC website. It was clarified that an election was only triggered in one area in 2015, and the council had funded and operated the election process. The OPC contested the amount of their costs being £5,000. But a risk had been identified of up to £40,000 if there were OPC elections over the city in 2019. There had been no consultation over the funding proposals for the OPC and strong representation had been made to the council. The OPC had attended the Policy, Resources and Growth (PRG) Committee on the 9th February to ask questions. Disappointment was expressed that the administration voted for the report and no mention was made of the work of the OPC such as the Fairness Commission, bus timetables, health issues and Age Friendly Cities.

292.3 Issues raised by members of the public attending the meeting included:

- the OPC needed to publicise its work more widely to seek greater support
- this was a significant attack on equal opportunities
- the OPC could become more connected to communities if it did not receive money from the council
- need to encourage more people to come along to the meetings
- a pensioner candidate could be put up in the next election to raise issues relating to older people
- the OPC could feel an elitist group so could it be more representative?
- would it remain as vital if it became a campaigning body, rather than a lobbying organisation which is its current role?
- a need to fight the cuts and continue to fight for weaker groups of people
- the OPC needed to encourage more volunteers to help them mobilise older people in the city.

292.4 Jess Sumner from Age UK advised the OPC to use the numbers of people who voted in their elections to show how it is representing a population. It was also vital to focus on outcomes. The OPC needed to decide if it was going the process the OPC itself was going through or on the future. Many other voluntary sector groups were facing a more uncertain future, with only 6 months funding rather than 18 months. Nowadays the council was not the dominant feature of local democracy. It was important to be involved in health decisions, rather than council decisions. OPC members agreed that it would be useful to seek a further meeting with Jess. Concern was expressed about losing the link with council officers if the council ceased to provide administrative support to the OPC. It was also felt that this would not help the council engage with the community. The OPC also agreed to use publicity outlets such as the Argus, Grey Matters and the OPC website to campaign about the OPC and encourage political parties to attend both LAT and OPC meetings. They needed to run a constant campaign and appoint a press

officer. The OPC had tried to reach out to a wider group including Facebook, but would use social media and a blog to communicate with the community.

292.5 It was agreed to seek a meeting with Geoff Raw, then report back to at the next meeting. It was recognised that the issue could not go back to PRG in the next 6 months. The OPC would consider how it could most effectively engage with ASC and Public Health about the implications for the OPC. The OPC would prepare a position statement on what it wished to see from the council which would then be put on their website and emailed out to their contact list.

293 SECRETARY'S UPDATE

OPC SECRETARIAL REPORT - MARCH 2017

Budget & OPC responses - The final budget Council meeting was held on the 23rd February where a joint amendment was carried which put a limited amount of funding back into a range of areas including Easylink run by Community Transport. Since the release of the budget papers in December the OPC have drafted briefs for Councillors and the press and lobbied Councillors about the cuts to services affecting older people & raised concerns about the youth service cuts. A separate update has been drafted and circulated at the meeting concerning activities of OPC.

Health & Well Being Board - Meeting scheduled for the 21st March has been cancelled.

Age Friendly City Steering Group - The next meeting is on the 30th March and will be discussing sensory impairment and preventable sight loss in older people. OPC has written to the Chair suggesting that a future meeting considers Dementia & Access. A range of information has been circulated concerning - Age UK's Index of Well Being in Later Life (www.ageuk.org.uk), Combatting Loneliness - a guide for Local Authorities by LGA & Age UK, No Smoking Day with some info on Council web site www.brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Age Friendly City Forum - an open group that discusses all matters relating to the Age Friendly City which meets at Age UK. Next meeting on Monday 22nd May at 2.00 to 3.30. Last meeting did discuss OPC situation & information circulated to participants.

City Wide Connect - The next hub meetings will be on the 22nd March for East at Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, 29th March for North/Central at Brighton Unitarian Church, New Road and 5th April for West hub at Ralli Hall Community Centre, Denmark Villas Hove. See also updated website

www.itslocalactually.org.uk and www.connectandshare.sharetribe.com

to view resources and new ways to obtain information for isolated older people. valuation of Hubs produced by Possibility People with assessment of impact see

www.possabilitypeople.org.uk/how-we-can-help/resources .

Dementia Action Alliance - OPC members attended event on 9th March at Brighthelm which had good support from a range of organisations & people with dementia. Speakers & films and well run event with many participants signing up to be dementia friends. OPC will be pressing for Brighton & Hove to be a more dementia friendly city. Unfortunately Alzheimers society not able to continue with Dementia cafes due to loss of grant funding. However, Maycroft Manor Patcham & Patching Lodge Eastern Road have Dementia Cafes.

Safeguarding - OPC had a presentation by Graham Bartlett Chair of Adult Safeguarding at February meeting. Safeguarding is an increasing area with over a thousand safeguarding enquiries in last year. He welcomed OPC involvement in the Participation & Engagement Group that is about to be established and this has been followed up.

OPC Officers Meeting - held on Wednesday 8th March and discussed a range of issues including Budget cuts, Future of OPC, AFC, Active Ageing & TUC seminar on Pensions.

Active Ageing Fund - Seeking meeting with Active for Life Manager to discuss the low take up of older people on Pension Credit as only 12 hold Leisure Card. Also seeking update on bids for Active Ageing Fund. A meeting will be set up and they are getting dates for April.

Policy Resources & Growth Committee - copy of the minutes of 9th February and responses to range of OPC public & supplementary questions received and circulated.

Local Action Team (LAT) - attended London Road LAT on 7th March where concerned residents raised drug dealing in residential street. Lack of Police presence at LAT meetings & Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) impact locally.

Community Works - OPC had exchange of information about lobbying re the budget & BHCCs proposals re the future of the OPC. Recent correspondence from them offering assistance in the forthcoming period.

INVITATIONS TO OPC

Pilot Study on Sleep - Brighton Medical School looking for participants for study on sleep and how good quality sleep could help prevent dementia. Looking for 60 participants (20 without dementia). Contact Dr Sara Baluch on 01273 872691 for further information.

South East Region TUC - Invitation to Pensions seminar on Friday 17th March at the TUC Great Russell Street at 10.30 with range of speakers.

Sick Festival - In Brighton from 20th to 25th March with a range of arts & cultural events some at Brighton Medical School. Box office 01273-678822.

Fraud & Elder Exploitation - panel and Police & Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne & BBC at Jubilee Library on Thursday 23rd March at 18.00 to 20.30.

Brighton National Pensioners Convention - Notification of Brighton Housing Action Group meeting on Friday 17th March at Brighthelm 2-4pm on Housing Crisis in Brighton

Mayors Office - Masquerade Dinner at The Royal Pavilion on Friday 28th April in support of local charities. Cost £80 per person. Contact Martin on 01273832963 for a ticket.

Co-op Bank - offering free advice clinics for social and community groups re Tax, Care & Toy Boys. Contact Charissa Malpass on 01142300265X274 or

charissa.malpass@coop.co.uk

Changes to Bus Routes - planned for April for Council funded services on Routes 77,78 & 79 and Compass Routes 37,56 and 56E. Any comments to 01273-292480 or

transport.planning@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Which - are highlighting that the Competition and Markets Authority are undertaking a review of the care home sector. They are seeking information about experiences with care homes. Reply to **info@mail.which.co.uk**

NEWSLETTERS

Age Action Alliance - includes information re Bristol Older Peoples Forum which has funding under threat despite flourishing outfit employing staff & with newsletter. Also workshops on Falls & Frailty in London with Age UK. NHS Public Health England have relaunched national campaign on Strokes.

National Pensioners Convention - Circulated briefs on Social Care Funding which includes Age UK estimate of 1.2 million people in England not getting the care needed - a rise of 48% since 2010. Also Campaign Bulletin regarding extra 30,000 deaths in 2015 which has been linked to cuts in care. Budget briefing and minute of a note of National NPC with Shadow Secretary of State for Pensions circulated.

Finally, briefing on Local Housing Allowances & concerns that this may impact on older people.

Community Works - Monthly Newsletter with detailed of members session, BHCC budget briefing and details of range of activities and resources for Vol Sector.

CQC - Report on "The state of care in NHS acute hospitals". See ccc.org.uk. Our local hospitals recorded as deteriorated. Also CQC report on significant concern about Companies providing on-line drugs.

Strike A Light - Arts & Heritage newsletter covering a range of workshops in March and a project at the Jewish Care charity with a grant from The Homity Trust to record with the residents about their lives in Brighton & Hove. Also , a course on Making a Life History book for those with early stage dementia.

NICE - Mike B circulated " A quick guide for people who arrange their own home care" which contains advice and guidance. See www.nice.org.uk for details.

Speakers Corner - Debate on line - A Good Life - Is Faith a Help or Hinderance - between British Humanist Society & Theos - a religion & society think than. See www.speakerscornertrust.org

Penny Morley
Secretary OPC

294 GREY MATTERS

294.1: This a radio production company which makes a programme jointly produced by OPC & Age Concern which is broadcast twice a week on Radio Reverb (97.2 VHF). Colin Vincent (CV) is member of its Planning Committee and John Cook (JC) is a Director and Secretary. There is a recruitment drive to encourage more people to become involved, with Richard the only presenter spending 2 days a week to produce an hour long programme. Four undergraduates from the University of Brighton have offered to help produce programmes and so they are hoping to increase the number made incrementally up to 10 per week.

294.1 The broadcast details are on the OPC website and an archive of a year's programmes. It is a challenge to obtaining accurate listener figures.

295 MEMBERS' UPDATE

Lynne Shields

- I have been involved in Age UK research about eating well as we age.
- The Falls Prevention Steering Group is organising a "fit for life" dance routine with various groups engaged in keeping active in later years. The project will culminate in a "flashmob" dance on the Level in June.
- The Age Friendly City Forum has continued to meet with the support of Age UK Brighton and Hove. Our facilitator Matthew Moore works for the Dementia Alliance.
- I attended the East Hub of Citywide Connect (organised by Possability People) This group continue to network and involve many third sector organisations in the provision of services to older residents. The aim is to ensure a more cohesive support system to prevent those at risk "falling through the net".

John Eyles - Members report

via EST committee 14/3/17:-

* The city's clean-up programme is proceeding with emphasis on controlling fly-tipping

- * Hove station footbridge, Mike Gibson presented petition to improve cleanliness and appearance, secure funding for replacement for the 110year old structure and provide lift access.
Owned by Network Rail & may be included in the Hove Station Quarter proposals.
 - * Review of Hanover and Elm Grove parking zones (Top Triangle), Pankhurst Estate to lose 170 parking spaces. Questions on number of Business permits allowed.
 - * Brighton & Hove bike share scheme, possible competition to name the scheme ... suggestion that councillors 'ride the sea front' to publicise the scheme. Hubs will have GPS to retrieve and re-distribute cycles.
 - * Electric vehicle charging points may be provided adjacent to City Car Club bays.
 - * Concerns expressed about road safety in Francis Street and access for pedestrians.
 - * Surrey Street traffic affected by Taxis occupying East side of road, too many licences issued for the bays available now causing noise and air pollution.
 - * Old Shoreham Road cemetery toilets North side used as store, South side available, need for funds to re-open south side for visitors.
 - * Local Transport Plan, capital programme, £6.4m transport funds. £1.4m repairs to surfaces and pot-holes, including: structural repairs, £135k allocated, budget allocation can be amended to meet demand
 - * The Paddock Roedean, much discussion on a disputed Right of Way (public) with the land owner BHCC, recommended that residents refer to the Secretary of State
- * St. Annes well gardens spring festival to start Sat May 13th 11.00 to 6.00 pm, look out for 'Red Mutha kids rave! They still have their health walks from the cafe.

Francis Tonks

- Attended Pensioner Association meetings at Patching Lodge- reducing numbers and the only remaining officer is the Treasurer
- University of Brighton, linked to the Universities of Birmingham and Lincoln, is undertaking research on people paying for their own care and has appointed a research fellow
- The Patient Participation Group is holding a Healthy Eating event in the Open Market on June 10.

John Cook

His main focus of work is on dementia. There are dementia cafes in Patcham and Patcham Lodge, which are to collaborate and mix resources. The Alzheimer's Society closed their cafes in Brighton & Hove due to lack of funding, although there has been an award of £100m for this condition. Praised the name – Dcaff. He was keen to make Grey Matters an authentic voice of older people.

Nick Goslett's work has been focussed locally and is about to set up social ping pong.

Michael Whitty is part of the Withdean & Patcham Network and the campaign to identify older people in need in the area. The newsletter was handed out at this meeting and more volunteers are needed for distribution; already using the Fire Service and young offenders. The aim is to encourage people in need to contact services, issues will be produced quarterly and there will be a report back to the council. If this pilot is successful, then it could be extended out to the whole city.

Mike Bojczuk

Although recovering from a foot injury he has:

- Updated the OPC website, including the link to the leaflet and Latest TV programme
- Attended the SHAG meeting which has decreasing numbers of attendees and will now be held twice a year unless a significant issue arises
- South East England Forum on Ageing is experiencing similar funding issues as the OPC and has made a decision to seek funding elsewhere.

296 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

296.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed by the Chair.

297 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

297.1 Concern over the small font size of the Brighton Festival Programme. The AFC Forum has raised issues about the legibility of documents and the declining standards of the council's graphics.

The meeting concluded at Time Not Specified

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

