

Wandsworth Older People's Network

Notes of Steering Committee of 20 January 2011 at Anchor Centre, 273 Garratt Lane, SW18

Present:-

Wandsworth Older People's Forum
Battersea Ret. People's Assn/Peabody
Wandsworth Hard of Hearing Group
Wandsworth Older People's Forum
Nat Pens Convention BME group
Furzedown project
U3A
NHS Prof Exec Comm
Facilitator, WPF

Tony Tuck(in the chair)
Doreen Brading
Jim South
Taj Qureshi, Mac Downes
Glenda Forde
Jenny Weinstein
Fred Roberts
Andrew Craig
Lilias Gillies

Apologies Sadiyah Muhammad, Lionel Davis, Su Elliott.

It was announced that Joan Steward, representative of Wandsworth Access Assocn on this committee and stalwart fighter on behalf of many people in the community had died. She had been very active until just a few weeks before her death and had been in hospital for some 10 days. The Network should keep in mind the need to provide better information for blind people about which Joan never failed to remind us.

1. **Minutes of Steering Group of 7 October 2010** were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

(1) **Day Services Review** Decisions on day services for older people had been delayed to the December Council meeting which had decided that Church Lane Day Centre should close and the contracts for voluntary centres should be extended to allow understanding of the effect of personal budgets. The voluntary day centres had still not heard how much money would be allotted to them from April 2011. This was getting too short a time for reasonable planning for organizations with staff. Jenny Weinstein said Furzedown Project was very concerned and angry that the Council was spending £13 million on Bolingbroke Hospital for a new school when there were cut backs in services. She said the Council had a statutory duty to consult on significant changes. The Chair said we all had to be alert to any significant changes.

(2) **Funding for Network** The Forum did not yet know whether there would be funding after March.

3. **Quarterly Meeting with Director of Adult Social Services** This had taken place on 23 November when the main item had been a presentation on sheltered housing. Slides are available. An important improvement has been made in that all sheltered housing, whether run by Council or other organization ie an RSL, would have a common contract which would specify what residents can expect from warden services.

4. Local Strategic Partnership

(1) **Last meeting** The report of the LSP on 26 Oct had been circulated/

(2) **Next meeting 20 January** The agenda contained a number of updates on changes and new proposals from Government. There was a report on the general background of the Council budget for 2011-12 and a report from the Leader entitled "Wandsworth Challenge". There was an item on Community Budgets for families with complex needs. Jenny thought this referred to new money from Government for such families.

There was an item on the Public Health White Paper and there would be updates on progress on the move to the Council and there would be some discussion on local progress on NHS changes. The

Forum had an invitation to join the Health and Well-being Partnership. Andrew and Jenny updated the meeting on the rapid progress being made in Wandsworth. The Health & Well-being Board was to be very small, Ian Reynolds as Chair and, otherwise, officers. Jenny said the LiNk would have a seat on it. Voluntary input will come from the Partnership for which a meeting has been called on 2 February. Jenny said although many GPs in Wandsworth do not think the new arrangements are good they feel they have to get involved. The LiNk and the Forum feel the same.

5. Health Services

(1) NHS Bill The Bill was published the previous day. Andrew will be publishing summaries of this very long Bill. The first today on public involvement had been circulated to the Network. The Professional Executive, on which Andrew is lay member with a seat on the Wandsworth Borough Commissioning Board, will go at the end of March. Whether there will be any lay representative on the GP Commissioning body or any sub-group Andrew does not know.

Wandsworth Commissioners will be a pathfinder in shadow. The GP Commissioning body was emerging. The current GP clinical leads were likely to remain but all GPs would be voting on the Chair between Nicola Jones (Brocklebank Practice) and Jeremy Bray (Lavender Hill Practice). All this is two years ahead of the timetable set out and before the Bill has been taken through Parliament and passed. The amount of funds the Commissioners will have is £2 per head of population for commissioning work compared with £40 at present: Some of that £40 would have been on public health which will go to the Borough. It is very destabilizing for staff and for current work.

Community Health Services have moved to St George's. The view was that it would help to move from a hospital-based organization to a community-based health service but that does not seem to be happening.

It is all a live experiment but it is about people's lives. The Network Steering Group hopes it works. Jenny said that Health Watch England was being set up. It was a good improvement. LiNk did not have any national organization. It was also good that the Health Watch system will be nested in CQC. Jeremy Ambache has been chosen to be the London representative on Health Watch England Board. The Chair will be a Government appointment.

CQC is to be strengthened which is a change from the impression given in earlier papers. Inspections had stopped since the election but Liliás reported that they were starting again. As an Expert by Experience for older people's inspections with AgeUK she was attending a briefing shortly and AgeUK had been contracted to provide Experts by Experience for 22 inspections in the next month or so. There were also people with physical disabilities, learning difficulties and mental health problems employed as Experts and presumably they would also be involved in inspection in the next period.

There will be "designated services". Those that are not "designated" could be closed if they are not good enough or too expensive or not enough users.

As there will be no Professional Executive there will be no reports from Andrew. The Network will have to get information from other sources.

GPs will be contracted by the national NHS Commissioning Board. There are 22,000 GPs nationally so there will have to be regional offices.

6. LiNk Jenny reported on recent work. The LiNk is only 12 volunteers and it has decided to concentrate each year on a few issues. Last year it was discharges from hospital. Liliás congratulated the LiNk on the report which had been produced on Discharges. Next the LiNk will be doing a survey of people's experience of Personal Budgets. There are 70 on personal budgets. Jenny asked for some volunteers who are holders of personal budgets in the first place to help formulate the questions and in early summer to be interviewed. There will be professional involvement in the survey to ensure it is competently arranged. Mac volunteered to be involved on the Steering Group.

Mac said Heathside users have been given £20 personal budgets but they cannot use it for paying for a resource centre as it is all taken up by other services provided to them by the Council. Penderel's contract has not been renewed. The Council must be relying on the help they can give through what is called Third Party Management.

7. Heathside Resource Centre Mac has been helping this group relocate as their premises are to be closed shortly by the Council. There are about 130 members and about 30-40 regular users. As 30% of the users are older Mac had become involved through the outreach for which he was commissioned by the Older People's Forum. That work had finished at least until new funding might become available. Together, the organization contracted by the Council to provide a mental health resource centre in Roehampton, is supposed to be going to pay Mac to help the Heathside users form themselves into a charity, although he is doing it on a voluntary basis at present. Accommodation for two days has been found with help from Regeneration-RISE providing lunch one day. All the staff have been paid off and there seems to be barely enough money available to pay for a few days.

8. Falls Prevention AgeUK has asked local forums to campaign for better falls prevention work. Andrew said the Falls Prevention Strateg, which had been around for consultation for a while, had been agreed and he said it was good, with cover of bone health and exercise programmes. Liliias agreed it was comprehensive and she had made comments about a year ago. It was agreed to keep an eye on the exercise programme for any reductions..

9. Questionnaire 2010 The Forum sends out a questionnaire with the September newsletter each year and the results for Sept 2010 have now been analysed. Conclusions that loneliness and isolation are still problems for many older people particularly those whose ability to use public transport is impaired. There is still not enough receipt of information about activities and services. The newsletter will try and include more varied information. Brightside gets 85% coverage among respondents so could provide information better.

10. Network Conferences

(1) **March 2011 conference.** Notes of the conference had been circulated.

(2) **Next conference will be on 14 April in the Civic Centre** and will be a review of the Older People's Strategy. It is hoped that there will be a good turnout to use the larger space at the Civic Centre. People will be sitting at round tables and speakers from the different dimensions will move round. This will make it easier for people to ask questions. Some dimensions can be split so that there is less overload of information at each table.

11. Date of Next Network Steering Group Thursday 10 March at 2pm in Anchor Centre.

12. Any Other Business Liliias said the **next Forum meeting on Tuesday 8 February at 2pm in Anchor Centre** will have a speaker on **Thames Flood Defences** and this will be of particular interest to the many Wandsworth residents who are in flood risk areas