

## County Wide Senior's Forum

Minutes of meeting held on  
17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2014, 12.30-3.00pm

Darent Room, Sessions House, Maidstone

### **Present:**

Paulina Stockell – (Chair) KCC Champion for Older People and Member for Maidstone Rural West  
Anne Tidmarsh – KCC Director of Older People and Physical Disability  
Graham Gibbens – KCC Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Public Health  
Chris Smith – Deputy Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Public Health  
Geoff Lymer – Deputy Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Public Health  
Sam Sheppard – KCC Commissioning Manager  
Paul Coles – Age UK  
Diane Aslet – Age UK  
Peter Marsh – KCC Dementia Friendly Communities

### **Representing Senior's Groups/Forums**

Anne Belworthy – Canterbury  
Pamela Adams - Canterbury  
David Metcalf - Tonbridge and Malling  
David Cure – Tonbridge and Malling  
Peggy Lawlor - Gravesham  
Steve Plater - Sevenoaks  
Vera Elliott - Thanet  
Mike Pearce - Thanet  
Christine Osbourne - Thanet  
Joan Riley - Ashford  
Dave Laws - Shepway  
Carole Hawkins - Shepway  
Bryan Pringle - Swale  
Bryan Vizzard - Maidstone  
Tim Wakelin - Maidstone  
David Morris - Tunbridge Wells  
Denise Watts - Tunbridge Wells  
Bryan Pringle – Swale  
Derek Munton - Medway  
Conrad Edel - EKSF, Secretary

### **Community Engagement Officers**

James Harman (T&M)  
Allison Allan (Shepway)  
Anne Charman (Thanet)  
Léonie Harrington (T Wells)  
Kayley Phillips (Dartford)  
Abi Jessop (Maidstone)  
Bill Ronan (Swale)

### **Apologies:**

Ann Allen

1	<p><b><u>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</u></b></p> <p>Paulina Stockell welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.</p> <p>Apologies were given as listed above.</p> <p>It was also highlighted that expenses forms were available and could be completed and returned to James Harman at the end of the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Previous Minutes</u></b></p> <p>The minutes were signed off subject to further information regarding the Secret Shopping Exercise being circulated. And resending the link to KCCs Transformation programme.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Graham Gibbens Cabinet Member Update</u></b></p> <p>Graham thanks all attendees for their time and everything they do to help support KCC's Adult Social Care Priorities. Graham asked people at the end of the meeting to consider how it had gone how useful it was and how often people would like to meet.</p> <p>Key points of Grahams update were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transformation programme started in May 2013 and taking a holistic view on savings and not just salami slicing</li> <li>• Current Adult Social care budget of £350m a year</li> <li>• Budget has increased across the country year on year for the last 10 years and if trend continues it would consume most of KCC's budget. Action to share the 'Graph of Doom'</li> <li>• Work is underway in Dover and Thanet to try and reduce back office costs to achieve better outcomes and savings.</li> <li>• KCC are looking at transforming Carer support across the County with increased funding to carers in collaboration with the NHS which is a really positive development.</li> <li>• Priority is supporting people to stay in their own homes and reducing the reliance on residential care.</li> <li>• Safeguarding is as always at the top of the agenda and Members are both passionate and challenging to services about safeguarding practices.</li> <li>• Working closely with the VCS and regular meetings are held with to discuss collaborative working practices. Over £15m goes to VCS commissioned services and is all to Kent based organisations.</li> <li>• The new Care Bill is expected very soon and will be the biggest changes to the sector for many years. Graham and Anne agreed to have this as a future agenda Item</li> </ul> <p>Graham also gave a short overview of the Kent Health and Well Being Board which is chaired by Roger Gough and whose big issues so far include Dementia, Strokes and falls and End of Life Care.</p> <p>Healthwatch was raised and Graham was confident Healthwatch are starting to make strides forward but asked people to give them time to bed down locally and welcome comments in the coming months about how</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>GG</b></p> <p><b>GG and AT</b></p>

	<p>Healthwatch was working.</p> <p>Questions –</p> <p>Q) Could KCC Commit to attending Adult Strategic Partnerships?</p> <p>A) Yes either a Member of the commissioning team or a CEO could attend in future if we have the dates in advance.</p> <p>Q) Healthwatch really needs volunteers to help it get off the Group could everyone help encourage people in your areas to get involved and support. Also some clarity is needed on who the local HW contacts are?</p> <p>A) Get list of contacts for Healthwatch on a district basis and invite along to a future meeting</p> <p>Q) The local H&amp;WBB do not communicate to the wider public and partners, why and can this be improved?</p> <p>A) To raise this issue at the County H&amp;WBB about communication strategies to local community. But it should be noted it is very early in their development and only the Countywide group is statutory.</p> <p>Q) Can you give an update of the Wiley Court development of sheltered housing in Swale?</p> <p>A) This is a good news story; KCC has shared nomination rights for the Unit.</p> <p>Q) The National Pensioners Forum has a dignity code and the Forum would like it noted that it was shared with the group (Dave Laws).</p> <p>A) Agreed</p> <p>Q) What will you be providing less of in the future than you are now?</p> <p>A) Certainly less spend on residential care as it's the single biggest spend for KCC.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>CEOs</b></p> <p><b>GG</b></p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Age UK Presentation</u></b></p> <p>Paul Coles (Age UK Maidstone) and Diane Aslet presented an update on what Age UK was doing in Kent and how it worked. (see attached [presentation])</p> <p>Anne Belworthy also gave a short update about how AGEUK work in collaboration with Canterbury Seniors.</p> <p>Q) Is the Travel Voucher Scheme mentioned exclusive to Maidstone?</p> <p>A) Yes but other areas do similar schemes</p> <p>Q) There are issues with use of branding which often cause problems locally can anything to be done to change that?</p> <p>A) AGE UK has been protective over brand use but it is slowly getting better.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Dementia Friendly Communities</u></b></p> <p>Peter Marsh gave a presentation of the Dementia Friendly Communities Project. The presentation is attached</p> <p>Dementia Awareness Week is 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May</p>	

6.

**District Round Up**

It was agreed to go around the table in order to give all individuals the opportunity to put forward concerns/views of the Senior groups/Forums that they are representing.

**Canterbury**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> March a Singing Together Event
- Integration Project with Herne Bay High School has been really positive and themed around painting
- KCC Volunteers scheme has been very helpful and has helped us set up new website.

**Tonbridge**

- International Old Peoples day event went well with 35 stands and 200 plus attendees next event 1<sup>st</sup> Oct.
- Promoting the Calibre Audio Library which has been very useful to TAMS Members

**Swale**

- Concern about the amount of mental health provision available in Kent (Note GG reply was that he felt the 3 provisions were able to cope with demand but will pass concerns on)
- Please with interim Phoenix Hs arrangements.
- Starting more Coffee morning/drop in sessions which is helping to sign up new members.
- Interest in future of minor injuries unit in Faversham.

**Sevenoaks**

- Successful with a grant for a De-Fib machine in each district. Was disappointed the local library wanted to charge a fee to store the Defib machine.
- Putting more efforts into understanding local concerns and communicating the work of the forum to the wider community.

**Thanet**

- Happy to talk to other forums about the Thanet directory or Community transport partnership.
- Aging Better project well underway and working towards 2020 funding.
- Working on the “Shaping our Age” project

**VE/AC**

**Shepway**

- Have started a Facebook page
- 21<sup>st</sup> of March is innovative Question Time meeting where members of the Forum will quiz the local MEP candidates on elderly policies.
- Started to work with Nepalese Community and wanting to find out about the Ghurkha Settlement Fund and Men’s Sheds projects. JH to distribute info.
- Would like to share learning with other areas.

	<p><b>Gravesham</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Now regularly getting 150+ attendees at every meeting</li> <li>• Would like support in how to find meaningful information and opinions about local services.</li> </ul> <p><b>Maidstone</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Chairman is Tim Wakelin who was voted in following Peter Spearink's end of tenure.</li> <li>• Over 250 Members of Forum now</li> <li>• Now hold a rural group in addition to the town group. This is very successful.</li> <li>• Looking to gain funding support from Mendes Grant funding</li> </ul> <p><b>Tunbridge Wells</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very involved in the Dementia projects and setting up dementia champions.</li> <li>• Have signed up to partners in action which is a link up project with CAB</li> </ul>	<b>JH/AA</b>
	Date of the next Meeting –TBA	