

OLDER PEOPLES' ACTION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The primary responsibility for the older persons' agenda lies with Hampshire County Council (HCC) and in particular Adult Services. However, New Forest District Council cannot ignore the needs and wishes of its' residents, particularly as current and future demographics indicates a large and growing proportion of older people living within the District.
- 1.2 Following the restructure of the senior management arrangements it was agreed that certain Heads of Service would have specific responsibility for important aims within the Council's Corporate Plan "Leading our Forest Communities". "Valuing and Supporting Older People" is one of the key aims and The Head of Housing has been given specific responsibility for leading the older peoples' theme here at New Forest.
- 1.3 This report sets out how the District will value and support older people and importantly link to the work and aims of Hampshire County Council to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to the needs of older people in the District.

2. THE NATIONAL AGENDA

- 2.1 Government departments and national voluntary organisations and pressure groups have over the last few years produced a variety of policy documents which highlight the need to plan for an ageing population.
- 2.2 The Green Paper Independence, wellbeing and choice and the following white paper, 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' (2006) took forward a broader, more holistic view of health and well-being. It acknowledged the need to shift towards prevention and community-based care in order to meet, in part, older peoples' desire to stay independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In April 2008 HCC launched their 3-year Older Peoples' Well-Being Strategy. This strategy recognises that there is a great deal of work going on across the county to support older people to live independent and fulfilling lives. The strategy is intended to provide an overarching framework to better coordinate this work and provide a basis for future initiatives to be developed with key partners including older people, the voluntary sector, health, district councils and HCC.
- 3.2 The HCC Strategy is structured around the Audit Commission publication "Older People - Independence and Wellbeing, The Challenge for Public Services (February 2004)" and the "7 Dimensions of Independence". These were drawn up after consulting with older

people in 2003/2004 and since then they have been consistently used in research and policy documents. They provide simple and clear headings within which to balance the complex interaction between what individuals can do and the wider community needs in order to affect older peoples' well being and quality of life.

3.3 The 7 dimensions of independence are:-

- **Housing and Home** - Being able to maintain the fabric of the house, adequate heating, safety in the home, maintaining the garden, help with household duties.
- **Neighbourhood** - Feeling safe in one's community, adequate lighting, pavements, relationships across the generations.
- **Social Activities, social networks, keeping busy** - Having a variety of activities available to attend, visitors to the home, activities to carry out at home, to be able to volunteer, leisure, learning.
- **Getting out and About** - transport, driving access.
- **Income** - Advice available on entitlements, adequate money to live on.
- **Information** - Easily accessible information, easy to understand information collated together from a variety of sources.
- **Health and healthy living** - Approachable services when required, access to health activities and information.

3.4 HCC's strategy stresses the benefits of taking a county-wide approach and as part of the overall strategy each District in Hampshire was asked to develop a local action plan to underpin the county strategy.

4. THE DISTRICT RESPONSE

4.1 Following the restructure of the senior management team and the publication of the HCC Older Peoples' Wellbeing Strategy and in line with the approach taken with all other themes linking to the Council's Community Strategy and Local Strategic Partnership, a Community Action Network (CAN) was established for the older peoples' agenda. The work of the CAN also feeds into and informs the work of the District Health and Wellbeing Board.

4.1 The first meeting of the older persons' CAN was held in June 2008 and membership comprised the following groups and organisations.

- New Forest DC representatives from housing, equalities, health policy development and the Portfolio Holder for Employment Heath and Well-Being.
- HCC representatives
- Age Concern
- Community First
- New Forest Primary Care Trust
- Service User Reference Group

4.2 # Terms of reference were agreed and are attached at Appendix 1.

4.3 Links have also been established with the New Forest Older Peoples' Forum which comprises many voluntary sector representatives so that the voice of older people more generally can feed into the CAN.

4.4 The prime purpose of the older peoples' CAN has been to create an Older Peoples' Action Plan that primarily aims to set targets that will meet the needs of older residents in the New Forest but also to feed into and complement the wider HCC Older Peoples' Well-being Strategy.

5. THE NEW FOREST OLDER PEOPLES' ACTION PLAN

5.1 The Older Persons' CAN has had a number of meetings and concentrated on developing the action plan. The CAN agreed that the action plan should break down into specific sections that would set targets to meet aims in the following strategic documents:-

- The District's Sustainable Community Strategy
- Hampshire LAA Priorities relating to older people
- County priorities contained in the HCC Older Peoples' Well-being Strategy
- The District's Housing priorities and targets

5.2 # Attached at Appendix 2 is the draft Older Peoples' Action Plan 2009/2011 that has been developed and agreed by the Older Persons' CAN.

5.3 If agreed by the Review Panel and endorsed by Cabinet the actions contained within the action plan will be implemented and monitored by the CAN. If required, an annual report could be presented to the Panel on progress against the actions.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Some actions contained within the action plan will help to ensure that older people feel safe and secure in their homes and communities and will work towards meeting one or more of the 7 dimensions of independence where crime and disorder might be an issue.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 One of the 7 dimensions of independence is around the adequacy of heating and mention is also made of income. Work around targeting fuel poverty will mean better insulation and more efficient heating appliances which will assist in meeting overall environmental targets.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. All actions contained within the Action Plan are intended to be achieved within existing resources. Where additional resources may be required these would be the subject of a separate report to Cabinet.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Equality and diversity are important issues to be taken into account in dealing with an older population that will have differing needs and requirements. The older person's CAN with its range of representatives have been keen to ensure that equality and diversity are at the forefront of all their discussions when thinking of the needs of older people. The Action Plan at Appendix 1 and the individual actions contained therein will, by necessity, take account of any equality and diversity implications and ensure that final services and actions are delivered in ways that will mean equal access and opportunity for all older people within the New Forest.

10. EMPLOYMENT HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 10.1 I welcome the work that has been done by the Older Persons' CAN and recognise that there is a need to ensure that the needs of older people in the New Forest are properly catered for, both now and in the future, when needs are certainly expected to increase. Anything we can do as a District to support our older people and their needs both now and in the future is good and I am sure that by working in partnership with HCC, we can maximise our resources to greatest effect.

11. EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH AND WELLBEING REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

- 11.1 The Health and Wellbeing Review Panel considered the Action Plan on 6th March 2009. Their comments recognised the need for effective action in the District to meet the needs of the expected increasing numbers of older people and they were supportive of the Action Plan. They also agreed that they would wish to review progress against the identified action on a regular basis.

12. RECOMMENDATION

- 12.1 That Cabinet agree the Older Peoples' Action Plan with the aim of supporting and valuing older people in the District.

For Further Information Please Contact: Background Papers:

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HCC Older People's Well-Being Strategy -
April 2008 - March 2011

OLDER PERSONS' COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK (CAN)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To create a partnership that.....

- ✚ Co-ordinates the delivery of the Older Persons' element of the community strategy
- ✚ Inputs into and responds to, issues relevant to Older Persons' coming from other CANs and the LSP
- ✚ Develops and reviews the Older Persons' Strategy/Action Plan
- ✚ Identifies and understands the Older Persons' needs of the district
- ✚ Inputs into the prioritisation of Older Persons' related work
- ✚ Produces an Action Plan to deliver the Older Persons' Strategy
- ✚ Helps increase organisational capacity and produces better use of resources
- ✚ Monitors progress and utilises performance information
- ✚ Ensures stakeholders have the right opportunities to input
- ✚ Communicates and influences others, including other Older Persons' strategic partnerships
- ✚ Shares information and best practice

Agreed 12 June 2008

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
Older Persons' Community Action Network (CAN)
Draft Action Plan 2008/2011

OLDER PERSONS' TOPIC	OBJECTIVES	PROJECTS AND PROGRESS	LEAD OFFICER	TARGET DATE
<p>Targets From the NFDC Sustainable Community Strategy</p> <p>10.1 Access to Health and Care Facilities.</p> <p>10.2 Providing more care facilities/day centres/care homes.</p> <p>10.3 Improving transport.</p> <p>10.4 Improved access to information.</p>	<p>Identify existing networks that are providing support and assistance to older people.</p> <p>Provide choice to older people in their housing requirements.</p> <p>Investigate the barriers to improving transport.</p> <p>Investigate developing older people as a resource.</p>	<p>Undertake an audit of existing networks (including contact with Parish Councils).</p> <p>Identify current options (including extra care accommodation) and ensure reasonable choice is available for applicants.</p> <p>Undertake a full review of current SH service and look at options for choice in line with future changes.</p> <p>Identify the issues; work with HCC to investigate the barriers.</p> <p>Identify existing volunteer networks and existing points of information. Assess the level of interest from older people.</p>	Pauline Lewis	2010

<p>2. Promote information about existing gardening services. Support the development of low maintenance gardening initiatives and gardening schemes where required.</p>	<p>Identify what is currently available and promote these services to the District. Identify gaps and look for ways to develop needed services in these areas.</p>	<p>Develop services using additional funding provided by Supporting People.</p>	<p>Barrie Cheetham?</p>	
<p>3. Consider a variety of ways to access existing handy person and home improvement activities, including energy savings and insulation.</p>	<p>Identify what is currently available and promote these services in the District. Identify gaps and look for ways to develop these services in these areas.</p>	<p>Develop services using additional funding provided by Supporting People.</p>	<p>Sara Gardener</p>	
<p>4. Develop further ways to promote personal safety.</p>	<p>Work with the Community Safety Partnership to identify areas of concern for older people and ways of overcoming these.</p>	<p>Identify needs and set out a strategy for improving personal safety and a feeling of security.</p>		
<p>5 Co-ordinate an on-going benefits campaign across the county with the Pension Service and other agencies.</p>	<p>Identify communications needs and work with other agencies to develop a publicity campaign.</p>	<p>Work with partners to ensure older people get the information they require.</p>		
<p>6. Encourage activities between the young and the old.</p>	<p>Identify local issues and link established groups and encourage joint activities.</p>	<p>Utilise the existing sheltered housing social activities and try to involve younger people from local schools etc.</p>		
<p>NFDC Housing Targets</p>				
<p>1. Develop older persons' housing in line with the HCC strategic review of older person's services</p>	<p>Produce a NFDC strategy for older persons' housing.</p>	<p>Identify future older persons' housing needs and set out a long term strategy to meet these needs.</p>	<p>Dave Brown/Pauline Lewis</p>	<p>Jun 2009</p>

<p>2. Expand the current provision of community lifelines and telecare services in the District.</p>	<p>Prepare a business plan for the necessary expansion of the lifeline and telecare business.</p>	<p>Business plan to be produced.</p>	<p>Pauline Lewis</p>	
<p>Other Targets</p> <p>1. Ensure adequate links are maintained with the HCC Health and Well Being Board, the Older Persons' Well Being Partnership and any other County wide groups.</p> <p>2. Accessibility.</p> <p>3. Promote access to Health.</p>	<p>To avoid duplication of effort and that all actions are targeted in the same direction.</p> <p>Ensure all services are accessible to young and old, able bodied or disabled and that no-one is excluded.</p> <p>Ensure that all older people have appropriate access to Health care in their area</p>	<p>Attendance at meetings by NFDC representatives and regular communication between officers at District and County Level.</p> <p>Ensure equal opportunities and diversity policies are complied with.</p> <p>Ensure that by working locally and County-wide through the Health and Well-Being Boards the needs of health care for older people is high on the agenda.</p>		