

MEETING OF THE HORSHAM OLDER PEOPLE'S FORUM
on Wednesday 1st June 2016 at Pulborough Village Hall

1. PRESENT

Dr Andy Tilbrook	[AT]	Pulborough Parish Council
Edna Henly	[EH]	Pulborough Parish Council
Brian Harvey		Horsham Resident
Michael Jarvis		Horsham Forest
Claire Webley		Horsham and Mid-Sussex Voluntary Action
Janet Shearer		Storrington
Tim Wilkins		Alzheimers Society
Caroline Instance		Age UK Horsham District. Trustee.
Lynda Ryan		Age UK West Sussex
Tracie Thomas		WSCC Head of Adult Services
Judith Packer	[JP]	WSCC Voluntary Sector Relationships
Andrew Porsch		WSCC Health Services
Ruth Corden		WSCC Adult Services
Martin Bruton	[MB]	Chairman HDOPF
Arthur Reader		Vice-Chairman HDOPF
Alf Goodchild	[AG]	Treasurer HDOPF
Martin Toomey	[MT]	Secretary HDOPF

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Jane Apostolou, Lilian Bold, Ann Gover

2. DEMENTIA FRIENDS (PRE-MEETING PRESENTATION) Tim Wilkins (Alzheimers Society)

A government initiative spreading information on and understanding of the disease and promoting

Dementia Champions – people willing to be trained and **Dementia Alliances** – communities with awareness.

Websites: alzheimers.org.uk

dementiafriends.org.uk

Dementia covers all forms of the diseases associated with, but not natural to, deterioration of brain function with ageing, of which Alzheimers is the most prevalent group. The aim of treatment is to delay development and to assist with living with the disease. **Early diagnosis** is a significant advantage and West Sussex has three specialist centres for Memory assessment. There are many cases of diagnosis before the age of 65.

Recommendations of note: see dementia as a disease – not natural ageing – not natural loss of memory

It can be lived with well – look to the person not to the symptoms.

Public duty: Driving disqualification have to inform DVLA.

Aids: Carers, carer groups and technological aids available (e.g. Trackers).

Understanding: Society produced video shows an Alzheimer's experience of shopping in a superstore without and then with the understanding of the staff. Points to **Champions, Friends and Alliances**.

3. BUSINESS FOR THIS MEETING

3(1) COMMITTEE

(1a) Ann Gover has resigned from the committee but not from her general membership. She has the thanks of the membership for the work she has done for the Committee.

(1b) Arthur Reader has taken the place of Paul Smith in the role of liaison with HDC Community Safety Partnership

3(2) PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Billingshurst has appointed Councillor Paul Leaney to represent them in the Forum.

3(3) THE MEETING 4TH MARCH 2016

The notes were approved as a fair record. A very successfully productive meeting with audience and Jeremy Quinn MP fully engaged. A similar event for Nick Herbert MP for Arundel and South Downs constituency is proposed for next year.

3(4) NEXT MEETINGS 2016

September 6th (Tuesday) SLINFOLD VILLAGE HALL, The Street, Slinfold, RH13 0RP. 10:30am.

December 8th (Thursday) LOWER BEEDING, VILLAGE HALL, Leechpond Hill, RH13 6NR. 10:30 am.

3(5) FUTURE PRESENTATION SUBJECTS

- Financial Help for Care – Carewise +Age UK. September 2016. Add to explore possibilities for ‘surgeries’.
- Safeguarding
- Legal Services E.g. Powers of Attorney

3(6) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 30th JUNE 2016 Thursday (10:00AM -1.00PM) LIVING WELL WITH A LONG TERM CONDITION: DIABETES
Sharing experience and expertise in questions and answers aimed to the improvement of support in the community. **Martlets Hall, Civic Way, Burgess Hill. RH15 9NN.** Book a place (preferably before 9th June) by contacting sam.acagra@nhs.net or 01293 600300 xt 3955. Invitation by Dr Karen Eastman. GP Clinical Director Long Term Conditions, Horsham and Mid Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 16th JULY 2016 Saturday HORSHAM RIVERSIDE WALK Four and an half hours of gentle walking (13miles) with stops and refreshments on the way. Voluntary Sponsorship for Alzheimers Society or others. Registration in advance helps organisation – see Horsham Town Community Partnership Website.

4. PRESENTATION by Tracie Thomas WSCC: Head of Adult Services

THE CARE ACT

Various pieces of legislation on the subject of care for the elderly have been enacted since 1948. These were all brought together in the **Care Act 2014** to re-design the way the social care system is to work. The Act was to be effective from April 2015 but the implementation of some parts of it have been put back to 2020.

THE SYSTEM is built around the concept of WELLBEING with seven principles of implementation:

1. **Entitlement:** care needs are entitled to be met by public social care provision
2. independent **advocacy** is provided where needed in establishing care needs.
3. **Eligibility Criteria:** levels are set Nationally.
4. **Information:** connection to and support from the providers in choice of care. (WSCC is working on this.)
5. **Care Service :** steps are being made to integrate the many providers into a cooperative service by 2020.
6. **Safeguarding:** the legislation provides a Statutory basis for prosecution of abuse in care.
7. **Personalisation and Independence:** WSCC is in the forefront of keeping this aim for those in care.

MARKET SHAPING AND PROVIDER PROBLEMS

Adult services are 50 per cent of WSCC budget and the general budget has been required to be reduced by £37million in the last five years. The numbers of aged persons over 65 years is expected to increase by 50 per cent in the next fifteen years. Provider failures with care homes closing in Brighton and Hove have moved care needs into Sussex.

QUESTION: Can the fees paid to Care providers be increased to avoid home closures?

ACTION: Claire Webley [Horsham & Mid-Sussex Voluntary Action] requests the name of the Advocacy Service provider from Tracie Thomas.

Action Follow up [MT]

5. PRESENTATION by Ruth Cordon: WSCC Adult Services and Lynda Ryan: Age UK West Sussex

CAREWISE

Self Funders of Care for themselves either Domiciliary or Residential

- need financial advice as they do earlier in life for mortgaging their home. West Sussex has had to make arrangements for 398 people who ran out of funding. Average cost of a care home is £56,000 per annum. Average income of those with self-care is £17,000 plus State Pension plus income from liquidation of assets.
- CAREWISE since 2011 has an independent panel of trust-tested Financial Advisers with an approved panel of Specialists in scrutiny of Care fees to give the necessary financial advice. The fees of Financial Advisers are now in an open market to be compared and no longer linked to schemes on which their income depends.
- the Carewise service of financial advice aims to set up a mutual confidence between the care home provider and the person in care.
- AGE UK is commissioned by West Sussex County Council to be the agent for advice to older persons on entitlements and benefits. They invite an initial consultation from the panel of advisers free of charge to determine whether financial advice would be relevant. Opportunities for initial advice giving can be set up by Age UK advisers and specialists attending occasions such as the Pulborough Wednesday Club for a ‘surgery’ event.

Comments

[AT] A Pension Pot of £15000 is common and this produces only £600 p.a + State pension

[EH] Can Benefit assessments be made on the phone?

[AG] Can a choice be made from the list of Advisers given by Carewise?

[MT] How do Carewise advisers relate to existing advisers whom clients may have?

6. PRESENTATION by Andrew Porsch: WSCC Health Services;

CONNECT TO SUPPORT

This is a WEBSITE designed to give a service of information and advice.

The website is interactive with the intention that bodies or persons with an interest in the areas which it presents may consult it and construct links to it which add a further level of information to what is already there.

Interaction is invited from and given within three zones of interest within the framework of the Care Act:

1) the general public in need of and accessing care : local groups are encouraged to place themselves in the Zone showing who they are and what they need or can provide.

2) the Providers of care

3) the Professionals working with Adults needing to see what is and suggesting what could be available.

WEBSITE ADDRESS: westsussexconnecttosupport.org

7. ISSUES ARISING FOR FORUM ATTENTION

[AG] HORSHAM / REDHILL HOSPITAL BUS CONNECTION

Action [MB] [AG]

A much used bus route from Horsham to Redhill Hospital has an unfortunate glitch in it which causes serious delay to travellers. The route is served by two services run by different bus companies meeting near Gatwick.

Both Buses are scheduled to arrive and leave at the same time allowing no time for passengers to transfer.

Missing the transfer means an hour's wait. It would benefit the passengers, the Hospital and the Bus Companies if the two services could be co-ordinated.

[JP] DEMENTIA CLUBS (1) see Age UK Website "Hubs and Clubs"

(2) "Mens Shed" Chesworth Farm, Horsham. Launching 7th June 2016.

Contact : benpickstock@gmail.com

8. NEXT MEETING : TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2016

SLINFOLD VILLAGE HALL, The Street, Slinfold, RH13 0RP. 10:00am.