



Meeting Notes

Public Meeting of Horsham District Older Peoples Forum **Wednesday, 4th March 2020 10.30am – 1pm** **at the Andrew Hall, Shipley**

Present (28 attendees)

Martin Bruton Chairman & Treasurer
Arthur Reader Vice Chairman
David Searle HDOPF Committee & HTCP
Lilian Bold HDOPF Committee
Joanne Medhurst Ascot Care
Chris Cribb Southwater Neighbour Network
Rosemary Burton Southwater Neighbour Network
Jill Chaytor Nuthurst PC
Kate Rowbottom Cllr HDC
Danielle Shurgold WSCC
Guy Stanley Horsham Forest NC
Nicky Fuller Age UK Horsham District
Caroline Instance Age UK Horsham District & Thakeham PC
Rachel Pawley Apetito
Jean Francis Interfaith Minister - Last Wishes
Chris Osborne Horsham Denne Neighbourhood Council
Matt Roberts Community Transport Sussex
Rebecca Matthews Horsham & Mid Sussex CCG
Michelle Cooke Rusper PC
Paul Isaacs OTUS Live in Care & Trustee Carers Support WS
Clare Jones Tapestry Lunch Club
Janice Brown Sussex Police
Valerie Smith Horsham resident
Marilyn Quail Rudgwick resident
Phil Leech Rudgwick resident
Amanda Jupp WSCC Cllr
Derek Moore Southwater PCC & Community Partnership
John Aldridge Horsham resident

1. Introductions and Apologies

Martin Bruton

Notes of the last meeting on the 3rd September 19 in Roffey, were on the [HDOPF website](#) prior to the meeting.

Apologies received from Martin Toomey HDOPF Secretary, Sandra Wylie-Sporne, Christine Sporne & Wendy Noel, Woodmancote PC.

2. Chairman's & Treasurers Report – Martin Bruton

Treasurers report

The Forum has now received a maintenance grant of £975 from HDC and current bank account balance £1363.13. Caroline Instance asked if Parish Councils allowed the Forum to hire halls without charge. MB said that we were usually charged. Amanda Jupp said that the charge for the hire of the Andrew Hall today would only be £10 to cover the electricity/heating costs etc.

The Forum does take part in the [HDC Community Lottery](#), and requested that anyone buying the Horsham Community lottery kindly consider supporting HDOPF.

3. Guest Speakers

1. Paul Isaacs – OTUS Live in Care & Trustee Carers Support WS

Paul has set up and owned OTUS Live in Care based in Partridge Green, with his wife for the last 8 years providing 24/7 live in care covering the whole of the UK. He has also been a Trustee for Carers Support WS for 8 years.

Challenges for the care Sector

He stressed that his views were non-political but reflected the reality and his experiences. Social care is in a workforce crisis and needs access to more workers than the UK can provide. The Kings Fund figures show that expenditure by L.A's on social care for 2018/19 was £22.2 billion but this was £300m below that of 2010/11. Costs are rising with increasing demand, increasing costs and not enough supply of care.

The 'Drop in care' plan is collapsing as the government can't fund it. The number of care providers going out of business is rising. Companies such as Alliance, Housing 21 etc. had been providing 20 million hours of care a year. 1 in 8 care homes closing with excess of 900 care homes closing. 1 in 5 classed as not good enough by CQC. 80% of care homes owned by private equity firms, only 3% by L.A's. These private equity firms tend to be leveraged with debts i.e. Southern Cross which collapsed.

Successive governments had cut social care funding, cutting profit margins leading to care provider companies going out of business. There are 120,000 vacancies in social care sector, 1 in 11 posts unfilled out of work force of 840,000. The points based immigration system spells trouble for the care sector where 17% of workforce is international. Social care not classed as having a skills shortage to enable workers immigration. Since Brexit there has been a 100% drop in European care workers coming to UK.

Future

Various independent reports/studies (i.e. Irwin Mitchell) show that if changes are not made, the care sector will collapse by the end of the decade. The Alzheimer's Society state that there will be 1 million people with dementia by 2025 and double that by 2050.

Non pensioners are not saving enough to pay for their pensions to cover the cost of their future care. Current workers need to pay an extra £575 per month to receive a moderate pension. Paul thought that the 1st post Brexit budget was coming up should contain a bold and fast acting plan to care for those reaching old age in the next 20 years.

Local Planning need to include the care infrastructure i.e. GP surgeries, care homes etc. HDC have requirement for 975 new homes per year and this could rise to 12,000. Where is the infrastructure to cope with that population increase?

He thought that any plan must be a cross party, non-political social care review. Carried out immediately including immigration and care funding. Awareness needs to be raised of the need for personal financial planning. There is a 2 tier care system at present – those that can pay and those that can't. Those that pay for their care subsidise those in L.A. care that can't. The review needs to look at NHS resources. We need 10,000 more DR's and 43,000 nurses just to stand still. 1 in 3 patients with dementia don't survive hospital.

DS said that there charitable residential care home only charged £700 per week v £1500 of private care homes. Despite that, they couldn't get enough clients and had 6 empty rooms. They have had to pay the rising costs of the living wage and when the lowest paid workers get a pay rise all the higher paid expect the same.

AJ said that what Paul was saying was on a national level whereas there was a more positive picture in WS which Paul agreed with. WSCC were working closely care agencies including care homes. As most people want to live at home there were now 'Reablement Homes' for those coming out of hospital to support their return to live at home through training and assessment, care plans etc. WSCC were investing in extra care facilities i.e. Osman Court where people can live independently but the level of care can increase onsite when needed. It was challenging to provide care for those living in villages

with higher travelling time for care workers. AJ said that 54% of people in WS receiving care are self-funders. Funding was the big issue. WSCC most proactive L.A in UK for forward thinking in social care provision.

LB said that GP's are going into nursing homes with nursing teams. Whilst convalescent homes after hospital are a good idea they do take staff. CO said her late husband when ill at home whilst she could afford to have call in care she just couldn't get it.

KR said that medical schools were getting more money to train foreign medical students who once trained returned abroad.

MB asked what had happened to the promised government Green Paper on care but this wasn't known. It was suggested that it may come after the spring budget.

It was also suggested that everyone should write to their MP expressing in plain terms their concerns and ask what the government was going to do to tackle the issues on care and when they will publish their plans. MB asked if he should write on behalf of the Forum to our 2 MP's and this was agreed.

CI was paying £10,000 a month to pay for live in care and additional costs for her 91 year old father.

It was also suggested that all new build properties should be built to Living Standard 3 for future proofing for peoples needs through age, illness or disability including downstairs toilets, shower and stairs suitable for a stair lift.

There was also a need for local housing for key workers as how can they afford to live (and work) in this area?

Likewise whilst care workers are low paid they don't have low skills, rather the opposite. With low pay how can they save for their future old age and a decent pension?

2. **Clare Jones** – Tapestry Lunch Club.

Clare said that it was because her father had early stage dementia that she and a partner had set up the Tapestry Lunch Club for those with early stage dementia. The Club which started in January 2020 employs hosts to run a lunch club in their own home. They will have 3 or 4 guest who live within a 5 mile radius of the host who will drive to their guests home to collect them and take them home later. By holding the lunch in the hosts own home it was believed it was a less intimidating and more friendly environment. The host provides lunch and activities for their guests.

The lunches provide a respite for their carers. It can also alleviate social isolation for those still living on their own.

The hosts are trained i.e. on food hygiene, emergency 1st aid, dementia awareness etc. Their homes area also assessed including the kitchen. The scheme is currently operating in Rowhook, Kingsfold, Billingshurst, Hove and Petworth.

Guests can attend with their carer to begin with to see if they like it. Cost to the guest is £60 for the 11am – 4pm day including food and transport. The Club is not a charity being a not for profit Community Interest Company.

3. **Danielle Shurgold** WSCC Partnership Officer for Horsham Adult Services
Danielle wanted to highlight 2 new initiatives by WSCC.

Talk Local – occupational therapists have a long waiting list for home visits so there are now community venues i.e. Hurst Road, Horsham where people can visit by appointment, held on 2 days a week to collect equipment needed in peoples homes i.e. for bathing. The aim is to reduce social care needs and to give help on the day of the visit. Possible next venue to be in Storrington.

Community Drop ins

Being held on 1st and last Tuesday in month at the Capitol theatre in Horsham. Drop in with no appointment needed.

Informal chats with free tea/coffee for advice from nursing advisor, Samaritans, Citizens advice, PCSO's etc. The Forum agreed that such initiatives should be circulated by the Forum i.e. by email and social media including to Parish Councils.



The poster features a yellow background. At the top left is a logo with the words 'Community' in a large, blue, cursive font and 'DROP-IN' in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font, with an orange swoosh underneath. Below the logo is a white cup of black coffee on a white saucer. In the bottom left corner is a small map of Horsham showing the location of The Capitol Theatre. To the right of the coffee cup, there is text in black and blue. The text describes the event as an opportunity for a face-to-face chat and a free cuppa with people from various organizations. It lists topics of discussion such as health, carer support, blood pressure, community safety, housing, debt, law, immigration, and mental health. It states that the event started on Tuesday 4th February from 12pm to 2pm, runs on the first and last Tuesday of each month, and is held at The Capitol Theatre reception area, North Street, West Sussex, RH12 1RG. It emphasizes that no appointment is needed and provides the email danielle.shurgold@westsussex.gov.uk for queries.

Come along to the Community Drop-ins at The Capitol Theatre for a face-to-face chat and a free cuppa with people from a variety of organisations.

This is an opportunity to have an informal chat where you can access information and advice on a range of topics to help you stay safe, well and independent – this advice could be for you, a family member, or even a neighbour.

There will be a range of local organisations that will be able to give you advice on subjects such as:

- Health, Carer support/health, wellbeing, maintaining independence.
- Check your blood pressure and heart rate
- Community safety issues or concerns.
- Advice on benefits, housing, debt, law, immigration.
- Information to support your mental health.

Started Tuesday 4th February. 12pm - 2pm

Drop-ins run on the First and Last Tuesday of each month.

The Capitol Theatre reception area, North Street, West Sussex, RH12 1RG.

No appointment needed, just Drop-in. For queries email: danielle.shurgold@westsussex.gov.uk

It was asked if this was linked to Community Transport for people to attend. It was stated that the theatre was near the town centre. CT to look into that provision for those living in rural areas. MR of Community Transport Sussex said that they were providing 2000 journeys a month to Horsham town.

4. **Rebecca Matthews** - Crawley & Horsham & Mid Sussex CCG's.

In April the current 3 CCG's will merge to become one for West Sussex. Her main role for the CCG was to look after care homes but she has been tasked to lead on researching change for the provision of Community Dietetics and she asked for views and experiences around the provision of dietary advice, what is working and what doesn't. There were gaps in the service and areas covered. There were various providers and levels of provision for dietician advice.

Home visits were supported. It was suggested that Carers Support WS be asked for their views i.e. on dietary advice for carers.

RP suggested that Apetito (meals on wheels) liaise on this.

4. **Discussion on any issues raised and AOB**

- a) **Chairman** – The Forum has been asked by Claire Shepherd HDC Health & Wellbeing as to the idea on provision of free driving assessments for the 70+ driver.

KR had undertaken such a course 3 - 4 years ago organised by the HDC Road Safety Advisory Group (which appears to no longer exist). That group met at the Horsham Fire station. HDOPF had been represented on that group (AR). The driving assessment had been done by a Fire Service instructor. She had her faults pointed out. She had enjoyed the assessment and learnt from it.

Overall the scheme was thought to be a good idea by the Forum.

MR of CT Sussex said that they had also ran an assessment for older drivers, none of whom had been thought not to be fit to drive. They had in fact gained 4 volunteer community drivers. This had been run 2 years ago but they were happy to run again. It was also pointed out that the Institute of Advanced Drivers (IAM) would be happy to provide volunteer assessors.

It was also pointed out by NF that Age UK had research driver safety and found that middle aged and younger drivers were far more likely to be involved in an accident than older drivers i.e. in killing a pedestrian

David Searle – pointed out the Mobility Scooter training scheme being run by HTCP in Horsham Park. This was a free 90 minute training scheme which could extend to a further more advanced course if needed i.e. to go into the town centre shops. He pointed out that Horsham railway station manager had volunteered for mobility scooters users to go to the station where they

would be shown the correct and easy way to get onto the platform and onto a train. The scheme has 2 on loan mobility scooters for people to try on the course before they buy.

- b) The Chairman also asked for views as he had been asked about a Forum supporters 90+ father who had started displaying out bizarre of character behaviour. This had been put down to early stage dementia but in fact was later found to be a urine infection causing organ failure (kidneys) though lack of drinking fluids. It was felt that not enough publicity and awareness of this need to drink was happening and a simple drink could prevent medical and hospital treatment. LB to take back to CCG.
- c) CI said that Age UK Horsham was being considered for merger into Age UK West Sussex. She wanted reassure the Forum that there would be no reduction in services, they want to enhance the service rather than reduce. It was a trend for charities to merge resources for financial reasons. AJ said that it was easier for WSCC to commission services from larger providers rather than a number of smaller ones.
- d) LB said that there was a mobile chemotherapy provision van coming to Tesco's.

5. Precis of HDOPF activity since the last meeting

- a) Continued to support the very successful Mobility Scooter Training scheme run by Horsham Town Community Partnership following the issue of safety with regards mobility scooter riders being raised at a Forum meeting www.horshamscootersafety.org
- b) Had several constructive and productive Forum committee meetings
- c) Attended the Horsham District Dementia Friendly Communities steering group September, November 2019 & February 2020
- d) Being part of and attending HD Dementia Care Pathway Group
- e) Attending HDC Joint Action Group to represent older people
- f) Gave a talk on HDOPF to the Phoenix Stroke Club
- g) Attending Support Workers Housing Network meetings
- h) Taking part in the HDC Community Lottery
- i) Continuing work on Community Transport by being part of the new HD Community Transport Forum
- j) Continued to work with [Age UK Horsham District](#)

- k) Continued to update the [HDOPF website](#) and social media ([FB](#) & Twitter @hdopf) with information, Horsham police crime & fraud bulletins, local events and [newspaper articles](#)
- l) HDOPF will be hosting its 4th annual 'MP Question Time' meeting. This year is with Andrew Griffith MP for Arundel & South Downs on the 6th November 2020 at the Council offices, Parkside, Horsham. Kindly supported by HDC Health & Wellbeing, Claire Shepherd.
- m) **Future 2020 public meetings:** next 3rd June 2020, Billingshurst Centre;
1st September 20, Rudgwick Village Hall;
6th November 2020 MP Question Time, Council Offices Horsham

The meeting ended at 12.45pm