

Corporate, Adult Services & Social Inclusion Select Committee

A meeting of Corporate, Adult Services & Social Inclusion Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 21st May, 2008.

Present: Cllr David Coleman (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell and Cllr Roy Rix

Officers: Mrs R Hill and P Smith (CESC), Mrs T Harrison and Mr N Hart

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Andrew Larkin and Cllr Mick Womphrey

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2008

Members considered the draft minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April 2008.

Concluded that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April 2008 be forwarded to Council for consideration.

3 Minutes of the meetings held on 18th December 2007 and 11th March 2008

Concluded that the minutes of the meetings held on 18th December 2007 and 11th March 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record

4 Scrutiny Review of Older People Strategy-Draft Scope and Project Plan

Members discussed minor updates to the project plan.

Concluded that the project plan would be updated and circulated to Members.

5 Feedback to the Older People Action Plan-Progress to Date

Members considered a summary of feedback obtained to date regarding actions delivered by stakeholders/partners against the older people action plan.

The Action Plan contained the following strategic priorities:-

- Community Leadership & Development - How Older People Can Make A Positive Contribution

Members referred to the continuing development of the Over 50's Assembly and questioned whether representatives from the Assembly were appointed to the Local Strategic Partnership Area Partnerships.

With regard to the BME Health Strategy, it was noted that a range of actions had now been carried out including the appointment of staff, and that the Committee could receive further feedback on this from Ruby Poppleton, Community Health Development worker - BME.

Members noted the formation of the Tees Valley Bus Users Forum and reserved the right to raise concerns/issues regarding lack of public transport in rural areas with the Economic Regeneration and Transport Partnership when receiving evidence from them later in the review.

- The Welcoming Community - Tackling Inequalities and Improving Access to Community Services

In response to concerns regarding the possible affect of funding constraints on the Fire Brigade, and their ability to carry out home safety checks, Members noted that the Handy Person service provided by Help the Aged offered this service. Details on the Scheme would be forwarded to Members.

Development of the Community Safety Plan 2008-2011 addressed the needs of older people including focusing on anti social behaviour, drug related offending and diverting young people from offending. Further information would be provided to the Committee at its next meeting, including public perception of safety amongst the over 55's.

- Real Choice, Control and Equitable Access

It was noted that Officers were working towards improvement of public transport information, access to Community Transport Services and an increase in the uptake of free bus passes. Members requested further details on the remit, aims and funding of the Community Transport Service.

- Improving Personal Well Being

Members requested further information on the infrastructure and demand for the End of Life Strategy that allowed terminally ill older people to die in their own home, should they wish.

Members referred to the difficulty and indignity often felt by older people when completing benefit application forms. It was suggested that this would be an area members would wish to question the Housing and Neighbourhood Partnership on when receiving evidence. At the same time it would also be prudent to receive advice on how these difficulties could be addressed by the Welfare Rights Adviser.

Concluded that:-

1. The summary of progress made against the Action Plan be noted.
2. The Head of Adult Services confirm the position regarding the appointment of representatives from the Over 50's Assembly to the Local Strategic Partnership Area Partnerships.
3. The Committee receive evidence at its next meeting regarding perception amongst the over 55's to the Community Safety Plan.

