

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE 2005 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillor William Menzies; Cathy Brown, MBE and Jessie Graham (Irvine Valley Elderly Forum); Winnie Campbell, May Fraser and Agnes Gallagher (Kilmarnock South Elderly Forum); George Gillen and Jim Murray (Cumnock Area Elderly Forum); Maurice Ashbridge and Sarah Roy (North West Kilmarnock Elderly Forum); William Cooke and Alex Currie (Muirkirk Elderly Forum); John McConway, Podiatry Services Manager; and Rhona Allardice, Podiatry Services Lead (East) NHS Ayrshire and Arran; Charles Murphy, Care and Repair Officer, East Ayrshire Care and Repair Project; Ian McGarry, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator; and Helena Gourlay and Margaret Gunn, Community Wardens (Neighbourhood Services); and Marlene Harkis, Service Manager - Older People (Educational and Social Services).

ALSO PRESENT: Brian La Combre, Catering Consultant, Apetito.

ATTENDING: Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Jean Aird (North West Kilmarnock Elderly Forum); Joanne Sharp, Senior Manager, Community Health Division, NHS Ayrshire and Arran; and Carol Robertson, Service Co-ordinator, Primary Healthcare Trust NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

CHAIR: Councillor William Menzies, Chair.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. The Chair advised, and it was noted, that Item 4 on the Agenda would be dealt with immediately following Item 1.1.

CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and, thereafter, at his request, those present and attending introduced themselves.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: APPROVAL AS A CORRECT RECORD

3. There were submitted (circulated) and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Better Government for Older People Group held on 2 March 2005.

MEALS AT HOME SERVICE

4. The Group received a verbal report by Marlene Harkis, Service Manager - Older People and a presentation from Brian La Combre, Catering Consultant with Apetito on the new Meals at Home Service which was to be introduced throughout East Ayrshire following the award of the contract for this service to Apetito.

In the course of the report and presentation, and also subsequently in response to questions put by Members of the Group and during discussion, it was explained that the new Service to be delivered by Apetito would represent a significant improvement

on the current service in terms of range and choice of food, quality and flexibility, all within the need to achieve Best Value.

The Chair thanked Brian La Combre for his presentation which had been most informative. Brian La Combre then left the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: MATTERS ARISING

5.1 East Ayrshire Community Alarm Service (Item 7)

Councillor Menzies provided a verbal report to clarify issues relating to the nature, eligibility and charges relating to the East Ayrshire Community Alarm Service.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the verbal report; and
- (ii) that this information be circulated, in written form, to Elderly Forum Representatives serving on the Group.

5.2 Affiliation by East Ayrshire Elderly Forum to West of Scotland Seniors' Forum (Item 5)

Marlene Harkis advised that following negotiations with the West of Scotland Seniors Forum, an appropriate fee had been agreed and paid by East Ayrshire Council and, accordingly, East Ayrshire Elderly Forum were now affiliated to the Seniors' Forum and would be able to fully participate in meetings of that Forum following determination of representatives.

It was agreed to note the terms of the report.

5.3 Options Appraisal for Continuing Care Beds in Kilmarnock

Marlene Harkis advised that Ayrshire and Arran Health Board had now determined that the 34 remaining continuing care beds to be provided within Ayrshire should be located in Kilmarnock; that currently, consideration was being given to these beds being provided either at Kirklandside Hospital, Strathlea or at a new facility on what is presently the site for Kilmarnock College; and that a Working Group had been established, involving representatives of the Agencies concerned and East Ayrshire Elderly Forum which will continue to meet on a regular basis, to take forward consideration of this issue.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the report; and
- (ii) to request Marlene Harkis to report back to future meetings on further progress on this issue.

PODIATRY SERVICES IN EAST AYRSHIRE

6. The Group received a verbal report by John McConway, Podiatry Services Manager, accompanied by Rhona Allardice, Podiatry Services Lead (East) with Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care NHS Trust to update on issues relating to the delivery of podiatry services in East Ayrshire.

In the course of the report, John and Rhona:-

- highlighted the volume of the service delivery which attends to approximately 30,000 patients, equating to approximately 140,000 treatments, per year;

- explained the nature of the podiatry care programmes provided by the Service and the bearing which the allocation of clients to the different programmes may have on individual patients' waiting times for appointments;
- explained the nature of the recently introduced self referral appointment system which offers a range of benefits including promoting the active involvement of patients, promoting flexibility in service delivery and, based on experience to date, a reduction of around 50% in the number of failed appointments;
- advised that previous issues regarding working arrangements for Podiatry Assistants had now been resolved with a consequence that the Podiatry Assistants were now undertaking a further range of tasks independent of clinicians, thereby promoting a greater degree of flexibility to contribute towards effective service delivery; and
- outlined the arrangements which apply to ensure an equal level of service delivery throughout Ayrshire.

John and Rhona responded to questions put, and issues raised by members of the Group.

The Chair thanked John and Rhona for their contribution to the meeting which had been useful in clarifying a number of matters of close interest to members of the Group.

John and Rhona then left the meeting.

COMMUNITY WARDENS AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR SERVICE

7. The Group received a presentation from Ian McGarry, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, accompanied by Helena Gourlay and Margaret Gunn, Community Wardens, all from within the Department of Neighbourhood Services on the operation of the Community Wardens Service within East Ayrshire.

Ian McGarry then responded to questions put by members of the Group and during subsequent discussion, members of the Group expressed support for the work of the Community Wardens Service which it was felt had had a significantly positive impact in those communities within which it operates, and took the view that there were other areas within East Ayrshire which would similarly benefit from the roll out of the service.

The Group otherwise agreed to note the terms of the report by Ian McGarry.

The Chair thanked Ian McGarry and his colleagues for coming along to the meeting and providing useful information and clarification in respect of the operation of the Community Wardens Service. Ian McGarry, Helena Gourlay and Margaret Gunn then left the meeting.

EAST AYRSHIRE CARE AND REPAIR PROJECT

8. The Group received a presentation by Charlie Murphy, Care and Repair Officer with the East Ayrshire Care and Repair Project, on the operation of the Project.

During his talk, Charlie highlighted:-

- the roll out of the service throughout the whole of East Ayrshire with effect from January 2005, following on from an 18 month pilot scheme which had taken place within the Dalmellington area;
- outlined the nature of the Scheme, detailing the type of assistance available and those who are eligible;
- advised of the high level of take up of the Scheme following roll out, from clients throughout the whole of East Ayrshire; and
- made reference to a new initiative being promoted by the Project to provide basic home security measures, with costs for this to be met from funding provided by Strathclyde Fire Brigade, Strathclyde Police and East Ayrshire Council.

Charlie then responded to questions put by members of the Group.

The Chair thanked Charlie for the presentation which had been very useful in updating members of the Group in respect of progress with and operation of the rolled out project.

Charlie then left the meeting.

SCOTTISH OLDER PEOPLE'S ADVISORY GROUP: DELEGATE'S REPORT

9. The Group received a verbal report by Maurice Ashbridge, who together with Mary Fraser, are this Group's delegates to SOPAG, on the operation of SOPAG and its meetings and issues of concern during the last year.

The Group agreed to note the terms of the report.

BEST VALUE REVIEW OF SHELTERED HOUSING

10. Marlene Harkis advised that East Ayrshire Council had just commenced a Best Value Review of Sheltered Housing Services, the aim of which would be to ensure that future housing provision for Older People will meet individual needs and be fit for purpose. It was explained that this would be a wide ranging review encompassing both provision by East Ayrshire Council and the independent sector, examining a wide range of models for future provision. Central to the review process would be consultation with existing tenants of sheltered housing, with potential users and families or other representatives of vulnerable people and, in addition, it was intended that the consultation process would also involve East Ayrshire Elderly Forum.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the report; and
- (ii) to note that Marlene Harkis would provide updates to future meetings on progress with the review, particularly following, and in light of, the outcome of the consultation process.

INTERIM EVENT

11. The views of Elderly Forum Representatives were sought on the nature, format and content of the event which is due to take place in September 2005 as an interim event prior to the next Annual Conference scheduled for April 2006.

It was agreed that East Ayrshire Elderly Forum would discuss this matter at their next meeting and feedback to Marlene Harkis accordingly.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

12. It was agreed to request East Ayrshire Council's Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to arrange for information to be provided to the next meeting on the Council's new arrangements for charging for the uplift of household white goods.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13. It was noted that the next meeting of the Group would take place on Wednesday 21 September 2005 commencing at 1400 hours, in the Meeting Room, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock.

The meeting terminated at 1615 hours.