

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2001 AT 1505 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillor David Macrae; Mrs Jessie Graham and Mrs Cathy Brown, MBE (Irvine Valley Elderly Forum); Mrs Winnie Campbell and Mrs May Fraser (Kilmarnock South Elderly Forum); Mr Jim Murray and Mr George Gillan (Cumnock Area Elderly Forum); Mrs Norah McCabe and Mrs Jessie Duffy (North West Kilmarnock Elderly Forum); and Mr Will Shaw and Mr William Cooke (Muirkirk Elderly Forum); Elise Allan, Service Manager - Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care Trust; Geoff Crow, Supporting People Officer - East Ayrshire Council; Karen Darling, Health Service Commissioner - Ayrshire and Arran Health Board; Sandy Gillatt, Chief Engineer - Operations, Roads and Transportation - East Ayrshire Council; Linda Howie, Community Liaison Sister - Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care Trust; Peter Kerr, Chairperson - Opportunities in Retirement; Rhona McGrath, Policy and Customer Relations Officer (Benefits) - East Ayrshire Council; Jim Richmond, Local Authority Liaison Officer - Strathclyde Police; and Dawn Vallance, Information Officer - East Ayrshire Libraries Registration and Information Services - East Ayrshire Council; Janice Harrison, Community Worker - East Ayrshire Council and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer, East Ayrshire Council.

ALSO PRESENT: Cathy Jamieson, MSP - Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Margaret Jamieson, MSP - Kilmarnock and Loudoun; and Councillor Eric Ross - Chair, Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive.

ATTENDING: Martin Clark, Service Unit Manager, Older People's Services - East Ayrshire Council; Janice Harrison, Community Worker - East Ayrshire Council; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer - East Ayrshire Council.

APOLOGIES: Liz Dunlop, Health Visitor - Ayrshire and Arran Health Board; Jean Hendry, Ayrshire and Arran Acute Trust; Bill Hunter, Assistant Principal Officer, Support to Communities - East Ayrshire Council; and Kathleen Vallance, Service Officer, External Providers - East Ayrshire Council.

CHAIR: Councillor David Macrae (Chair).

CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to this the first meeting of the Group following amalgamation of the quarterly Elderly Forum Liaison Meeting and the Bi-Annual Better Government for Older People meeting. He indicated that he was encouraged by the large turnout of representatives from the Partner Members which was important in ensuring that the aim of the Group, being to enable older people to express their views on, and contribute to meeting their needs through the provision of public services, can be achieved.

At the request of the Chair, everyone present and attending introduced themselves and indicated which organisation they represented.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE GROUP MEETINGS

2. There was submitted and noted a report (circulated) by Martin Clark, Service Unit Manager, Older People's Services within the Department of Educational and Social Services, which advised of arrangements for meetings of the Better Government for Older People Group.

CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL

3. The Group received a presentation from Ann Gibson, Financial Controller (Concession Travel), Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive, on the Concessionary Travel Scheme operated within the former Strathclyde Region area. Councillor Eric Ross, Chair of the Executive, and Chris Carberry, Public Transport Officer were also present.

The representatives from Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive then answered questions put by members of the Group, relating to various aspects of the Scheme and the Group also heard comments of Margaret Jamieson and Cathy Jamieson, MSPs.

The members of the Group noted (i) the information provided and comments made; and (ii) that the Scottish Executive would welcome the submission of comments from the public in relation to the proposed National Fares Scheme which is scheduled for introduction in October 2002.

The Chair then thanked the representatives from Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive for their contribution to the meeting which had been most interesting and informative. The Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive representatives then left the meeting. Cathy Jamieson, MSP also left the meeting at this point.

PODIATRY SERVICES

4. The Group received a presentation from John McConway, Podiatry Manager, Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care Trust, on Podiatry Services within Ayrshire with particular reference to services for older people.

John McConway then responded to questions asked and issues raised by those present.

The Chair then thanked John McConway for his presentation which had been most useful in clarifying various matters of interest to members of the Group. John McConway then left the meeting.

ELDERLY FORUM DEVELOPMENT WORKER: UPDATE

5. Martin Clark, Service Unit Manager - Older People's Services, commented on issues relating to the possible establishment of a Development Worker to support the Elderly Forum in its activities, making particular reference to:
- (i) the role East Ayrshire Council currently plays in supporting the Elderly Forum through Older People's Services and Community Workers, which would largely continue in the event that an independent Development Worker was established;

- (ii) the success of an elderly forum in Fife in obtaining funding for a Development Worker through a bid to the lottery;
- (iii) the appropriate roles of East Ayrshire Council and the East Ayrshire Council for Voluntary Organisations in supporting and facilitating preparation and submission of a bid for funding for a Development Worker to the lottery, it being emphasised that the Council can play only a limited role; and
- (iv) the possible nature of any bid for funding that could be made ie for the Development Worker, accommodation, activities, etc.

It was agreed to request Martin Clark, Service Unit Manager, to further examine and pursue, insofar as is possible and appropriate, arrangements for progressing a bid for lottery funding for the establishment of a development worker, in consultation and liaison with the Chair of this Group and the Chair of the Elderly Forum Group where necessary, and the Council for Voluntary Organisations.

AYRSHIRE PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUP FOR OLDER PEOPLE: UPDATE

6. The Group noted a verbal report by Karen Darling, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board, and Martin Clark, Service Unit Manager, who indicated that it was anticipated that the Partnership Working Group, which comprises Senior Officers from East Ayrshire Council Social Services Section, Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care and Acute NHS Trusts and representatives of Elderly Forums to examine joint initiatives for older people's services across Ayrshire, would be producing a draft document for public consultation early in 2002 with a view to the publication of a final report in Spring 2002.

OLDER PEOPLE'S ADVISORY GROUP TO BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE

7. The Group heard comments by Will Shaw, Muirkirk Elderly Forum, and Norah McCabe, North West Kilmarnock Elderly Forum, who had attended recent meetings of the Older People's Advisory Group to Better Government for Older People as representatives of East Ayrshire Elderly Forum.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note concerns expressed by the Forum's representatives to the Advisory Group regarding certain aspects of meetings of the Advisory Group and the limited opportunities which there seemed to be for meaningful participation by the Elderly Forum representatives; and, accordingly, to request Martin Clark, Service Unit Manager, to raise these concerns with the Director of Better Government for Older People; and
- (ii) that, notwithstanding (i) above, the Elderly Forum should continue to be represented on the Advisory Group.

Peter Kerr, Opportunities in Retirement, left the meeting at this point.

FUTURE ITEMS

8. The Elderly Forum representatives requested that information be submitted to future meetings of the Group on Free Personal Care for the Elderly; and the availability of Sheltered Housing and the condition of older sheltered units within East Ayrshire; and it was noted that any further items which the elderly forums might wish to

suggest for consideration at future meetings be notified to Janice Harrison, Community Worker, Department of Educational and Social Services, East Ayrshire Council.

The meeting terminated at 1656 hours.

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