

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EAST AYRSHIRE ELDERLY FORUM STEERING GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16 JUNE 1998 AT 1500 HOURS IN THE MAIN MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillor James Boyd.

ATTENDING: Douglas Bulloch, Director of Social Work; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; Bob Pollock, Police Liaison Officer; Janice Harrison, Support Worker, Social Work; Neil Bell, Senior Engineer, Roads and Transportation; Andrew Hunter, Strathclyde Passenger Transport; Alan Hutton, Strathclyde Passenger Transport; and Anne Fairbairn, Administrative Officer; together with Norah McCabe, Northwest Kilmarnock Elderly Forum, Bessie Faulds, Northwest Kilmarnock Elderly Forum, Jessie Duffy, Northwest Kilmarnock Elderly Forum, Nancy Morley, Northwest Kilmarnock Elderly Forum, George Gillon, Cumnock Elderly Forum, Agnes Gallacher, South Kilmarnock Elderly Forum, Allan Faulds, South Kilmarnock Elderly Forum, Winnie Campbell, South Kilmarnock Elderly Forum, Oswald Swindelhurst, Muirkirk Elderly Forum, William Shaw, Muirkirk Elderly Forum and William Cooke, Muirkirk Elderly Forum.

APOLOGY: Gwen Barker, Service Officer, Social Work Department.

CHAIR: Councillor James Boyd, Chair.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

1. The Chair welcomed representatives from East Ayrshire Elderly Forums to the meeting advising them that the purpose was to share information and hear their views which would help to assist with the formation of Council policy.

LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE ELDERLY FORUMS' STEERING GROUP

2. Douglas Bulloch confirmed that the aim of the Liaison Meeting was to provide an opportunity for Steering Group representatives and the Council to share information and for representatives to influence Council policy and planning.

It was agreed to monitor the frequency of meetings for the first year to 18 months with a view to increasing frequency if required.

TRANSPORT ISSUES

3. There then followed a short presentation by representatives from the Passenger Transport Executive which included an update on the Dial-a-Bus service with reference to subsidised bus services including concessionary arrangements.
 - (i) In relation to the Dial-a-Bus service, the meeting was advised that:-
 - (a) proposals were being submitted to the Passenger Transport Executive Service Committee outlining the implementation of a pilot scheme following completion of which consultation will be carried out with interested groups and organisations with a view to the proposals being implemented by the end of 1998;

- (b) the computer answering system was to be upgraded;
- (c) the timings of the Dial-a-Bus service throughout East Ayrshire Council would be examined with a view to separating the timings to enable a better service to be achieved; and
- (d) that a change in the current door-to-door service throughout the area would also be implemented.

In response, the position regarding the possible implementation of a free-phone number or local number was raised, the meeting heard that the cost implications would render this facility impossible to operate at the present time.

In addition, the Chair advised the meeting that a Working Group had been established to discuss these issues.

Representatives from the Elderly Forums then raised concerns regarding the concessionary fare scheme and highlighted the inconsistencies which formed part of the scheme which included the travel times and the distance which can be travelled without incurring additional costs.

It was agreed that:-

- (i) the Elderly Forums write to the Director General of the Passenger Transport Executive and express their views in relation to the concessionary travel scheme;
- (ii) the feasibility of establishing a group to look at concessionary travel be considered; and
- (iii) a meeting should be convened on an annual basis with Passenger Transport Executive.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT - COMMUNITY CARE

4. There was submitted (tabled) the East Ayrshire Joint Community Care Plan Volumes 1 and 2 from which issues were highlighted.

The meeting heard that with regards to the Council's home care service, a leaflet would be issued providing relevant information.

SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

5. There then followed a short presentation by Inspector Bob Pollock, Strathclyde Police.
- (i) the Police Liaison Officer highlighted the relationship between the Police and older people and advised the meeting that his remit included:-
 - (a) the development of liaison between the Police, the Council and the community;
 - (b) helping the Council to develop a strategy to address crime and fear of crime; and
 - (c) the implications of Operation Spotlight.
 - (d) that the Community Involvement Branch were available to carry out home security surveys;
 - (e) that Community Police Officers were dedicated to particular areas

across the Council; and

- (f) that a pack was being prepared for Home Helps to enable them to carry out basic security surveys.

It was agreed to invite the Police Liaison Officer to the next meeting to update members on activity.

- (ii) the Roads and Transportation Representative who outlined his remit and advised that a Road Safety Campaign was currently being set up and would be launched in August.

It was agreed to invite the Roads and Transportation Representative to give a short presentation to the next meeting.

- (iii) the Director of Community Services outlined the remit of Community Services Department and invited Elderly Forums to contact the Department if they felt it would be helpful to have an Officer attend any of their meetings.

It was agreed to invite the Director of Community Services to make a short presentation at the next meeting.

HEALTH RELATED ISSUES

- 6. The meeting was advised that the finance for the new Hospital in Cumnock had been approved and further updates regarding the start and completion dates would be received from the Chief Executive of the Community Trust in due course.

In addition, the meeting was advised that, any issues in relation to the Chiropody Service should be notified to the Community Trust to enable them to take appropriate action.

NOMINATIONS FOR INSPECTION AND REGISTRATION ADVISORY GROUP

- 7. The Director of Social Work requested nominations to serve on the Inspection and Registration Advisory Group together with nominations to act as reserves.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that any nominations be submitted to Janice Harrison;
- (ii) that information regarding the Inspection Advisory Unit would be forwarded to any individual expressing an interest; and
- (iii) that the request for nominations be submitted to all Elderly Forums.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 8. The date of the next meeting has yet to be agreed.

The meeting terminated at 1627 hours.

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