

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

10.15am 22 APRIL 2014

JUBILEE LIBRARY

MINUTES

Present: Mike Bojczuk (Chair), Colin Vincent, Jack Hazelgrove, Francis Tonks, John Eyles and Harry Steer

Co-opted Members: Marion Couldery, Janet Wakeling and Sue Howley

Others Present: Councillor Bowden

PART ONE

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- 1.1 The Chair handed over to Harry Steer (Treasurer of OPC (and Grey Matters Productions)). HS paid his respects to the late Bob Gunnell who founded Grey Matters Productions. Members and the public held a minute's silence.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Val Brown and Jess Sumner (Age UK, Brighton & Hove)
- 1.3 There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES

- 2.1 HS (Treasurer for OPC and Grey Matters Productions) reported that Grey Matters was flourishing and are continuing to broadcast.
- 2.2 Members approved the minutes for the 18 March 2014.

3. MARTIN RANDALL - HEAD OF PLANNING B&HCC

- 3.1 Martin Randall – Head of Planning & Public Protection - presented the information on the Shoreham Harbour Joint Action Area Plan (JAAP).
- 3.2 The Shoreham Harbour Regeneration project is being led by a partnership comprising Adur District Council, Brighton & Hove City Council, West Sussex County Council and Shoreham Port Authority. The partnership is supported by the Homes and Communities Agency and the Environment Agency. The aim of the JAAP is to provide a positive planning framework for regeneration.

- 3.3 The original proposal for 10,000 homes had a very 'top down' feel to it and was driven by the former Regional Development Agency. The JAAP reflected the strong partnership between the respective local authorities and the Port and tested a more realistic figure closer to 2,000 new homes.
- 3.4 The Port was thriving and in addition to the many port-related uses, it attracted other business users too. The canal provided a key opportunity for larger ships and the JAAP looked to consolidate port related uses on the southern arm alongside the canal.
- 3.5 The Harbour area also provided many opportunities for formal and informal recreation including rowing, sailing and the popularity of the beach. There were also a number of heritage assets including the Lighthouse and Fort.
- 3.6 Transport links needed improving and the JAAP looked to a more integrated package of measures including highway improvements. The JAAP also addressed the need to provide flood risk protection as part of new development.
- 3.7 The character areas in the Brighton & Hove administrative area and the key areas of opportunity were:
- South Portslade provided opportunities for improved employment use and some appropriately located residential development.
- Aldrington Basin provided opportunities for more employment uses and a vibrant mix of new and improved port facilities.
- 3.8 The deadline for the consultation was 25 April 2014 but comments were still welcome.
- 3.9 Ultimately, the JAAP will be tested at an Examination in Public before proceeding toward adoption.
- Questions included:
- 3.10 There was much unresolved history around South Portslade and the very busy railway crossing. How would this matter be resolved to create additional housing and schools? The focus would be on Southern and Network Rail to work in partnership to produce a future plan.
- 3.11 What effect would the offshore wind farms have on the area? Members heard that the wind farms were 13 miles from the beach and would have relatively no impact on the area. The main concern was to ensure that the connection cable was safe.
- 3.12 It would be useful to have more detailed transport proposals which involved the use of passenger boats.
- 3.13 The Head of Planning & Public Protection presented information on Neighbourhood Plans. The Plans were introduced under the Localism Act 2011. These were community-led frameworks for the development of an area.

3.14 Martin set out the framework for preparing Neighbourhood Plans and reported on progress at Rottingdean and Hove Station and some formative ideas from other parts of the City.

3.15 PM declared an interest as she lived in the Roundhill area and was involved in a petition to reject the approval of a new development. This development had previously been rejected.

Questions raised included:

3.16 A request for the City Council to publicise its intention to respond to planning applications in neighbouring local authority areas when proposals impacted on Brighton and Hove.

3.17 The Chair thanked the Head of Planning & Public Protection and said it would be useful to invite him back for a progress update on these items.

4. JANE MACDONALD - COMMISSIONING MANAGER, B&HCC

4.1 Jane Macdonald Commissioning Manager introduced the Market Position Statement for Brighton & Hove City Council and the intended audience was for future providers of Adult Social Care Services.

4.2 The Statement has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) tool that is used to help inform the commissioning of services.

4.3 The Executive Director of Adult Services expresses in the Introduction of the Market Position Statement about the very challenging time in the care market, ensuring there is ongoing quality and value for money. The new Care Bill and the Better Care Fund are about moving some of the services from hospitals into the community including homecare and nursing homes.

4.4 The key messages were that there was a rise in the number of people who required services. Of those older people who required care it was more likely that their needs were increasingly complex. The focus was on prevention and keeping people healthy, to help reduce the need for access to statutory services. There would be a 18% reduction in the council's budget by 2017. The eligibility criteria for services had not changed. There would be an increase in direct payments as individuals chose services they wished to buy. Fifty percent of the Adult Social Care gross spend for 2012/13 was for care homes, which was higher than comparative authorities.

4.5 The commitments within the Market Position Statement were:

- Keeping people safe
- Focusing on the most vulnerable
- Keeping people fit and healthy
- Offering more choice to individuals
- Innovative accommodation to assist older people to lead independent lives
- Continue to work with the community and voluntary sector to make best use of resources
- Provide good information so that older people can make informed decisions.

4.6 Statistics with the Statement show that the population of the city was projected to increase by 6% by 2021., the number of older people aged 75 years or over is expected to increase by 10% from 2021, with a projected 26% increase in the number of people aged 65 or over with dementia, by 2030.

Questions included:

4.7 With a budget of nearly £100 million, how many people was this for? Care costs varied for individuals depending on their needs. Some individuals would need £500 or upwards per week, as others may need two calls per week. The service was challenged by how individuals would find their own care in the future, would this be care homes? Did the city have the right provision for individuals' future needs?

4.8 If a person was initially self-funded and their finances diminished, would they have to move to fit into the council's budget criteria? The Care Bill would change this all as people would have their care packages calculated before being placed in care homes. This included a financial assessment to ensure they were in the correct home to minimise people having to move later on.

4.9 Were services reaching out to other ethnic groups, as care homes tended to have predominately white residents? In reality it was uncertain whether the council were actually managing to reaching reach out to such groups, however there was ongoing work to try and improve this.

4.10 Why was a letter sent to patient when they were in a Community Short Term Service bed and told to move into a care home? Short Term Services were provided to individuals with a period of re-enablement and rehabilitation from an injury or illness and to prevent service users from staying in beds inappropriately. These re-enablement beds were not means tested and so were precious. People would be assessed to move into long term services. All people in long term services will have a review and identified whether they were happy or unhappy with that service. It was pointed out that relocating could be traumatic to a person who was vulnerable. People were told from the beginning that they were in a short term service and this was not long term.

4.11 Who carried out ensuring that the 79 care homes in the city worked to the correct service standards including staff training? The council's Contract team had the responsibility of auditing commissioned services. Care homes with poor quality received more audit visits than others that performed well.

4.12 The service was committed to Telecare and assisted technology to promote independent living. Homecare services had purchased £50 million of community equipment for people who were frail and disabled.

4.13 Care homes are to become more community activity places so that people could purchase, day activities, lunches and have bathing facilities open to people outside of the care home too. Somerset Day Centre had a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Open day the last Friday of every month. Personal assistance was a growing market and could be accessed on the internet.

- 4.14 Care workers signed National Disclosure forms so why couldn't this information be used to strike off malpractice workers; the Nursing & Midwifery council and also Hackney Carriage Drivers were all closely monitored and action taken against workers who did not comply to standards? The Council had Contract officers who audited care workers. Checks included what training workers had, job references and other details to safeguard service users.
- 4.15 The website "It's local actually" informed people about activities they could get involved with in their area.
- 4.16 Further to information on questions raised at the Older Peoples Council and the public, included the membership of the:

Promoting Good Quality in Care Panel; Membership includes from Brighton and Hove City Council contract managers, commissioners, representatives from workforce development, reviewing officers and complaints officers.

Health Watch, representation from the Clinical Commissioning Group and representation from Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust are also included.

The Service Improvement Panel

The membership includes Commissioning Support contract managers and operational managers.

With regard to Craven Vale it was mentioned in the last Committee paper to Adult Social Care committee:

'Consideration was given to developing additional beds at Craven Vale Resource Centre. This is not being taken forward as the focus is on growing community services rather than developing more bed based services'.

5. OPC WORK PROGRAMME AND UPDATE

- 5.1 Members agreed the work programme.

6. YOUTH COUNCIL- INTERGENERATIONAL MEETING UPDATE

- 6.1 The OPC heard about the Youth Council's transport on the coverage of buses, especially before 9am and after 3pm on school days. JH had invited youth council members to the Bus Watch meeting the next day.
- 6.2 Members commented on their disappointment about the Argus article on 31 March 2014 "Young bear the cost of buying silver vote" about young people having to work longer to pay for older people's pensions; creating a further gap between older people and young people. Both the Chair & Secretary responded to the article.

6.3 Members agreed to continue to work with the Youth Council to work in partnership in minimising intergenerational issues and found the meeting beneficial.

7. UPDATE OF ITEMS

7.1 FT informed members that the OPC had been invited to input into the Stanmer Park Consultation.

7.2 JH had attended the Speakers Corner which was a national set up and the Philosophy in Pubs would be opening soon.

7.3 CV attended the 17 March, Adult Social Care Committee meeting. CV also attended the Board meeting as the Director of Grey Matters Production and informed members that there was a promise for some further funding. CV was planning to attend the Local Account meeting, which was a summary of Adult Social Care services; views were collated as to how well services were provided. Additionally CV had attended the National Pensioners Convention (NPC) South East, in Brighton where there was discussion about promoting the NPC Dignity.

7.4 MB attended the south east Ageing Policy planning meeting, there would be a voluntary work feature and was in discussion with Age UK on the Lottery Fund.

7.5 PM had attended the AFC Steering Group meeting which consisted of a variety of organisations. Brighton should be mapping out all their older people's services. A focus group on public toilets at the Open Market had informed that people could show their medical cards to other organisations so that they could use their facilities if required. Sheltered Housing visits would continue. The Chief Executive from the National Pensioners Convention had recently said that the UK pension was the lowest pension internationally other than Mexico.

7.6 HS reported that training for social workers on social abuse was being organised.

7.7 SH was dealing with the production of the Pensioner and people writing into the magazine. The website was to be launched in July 2014.

7.8 JW had attended the recent Planning Committee meeting where the Dyke Road open air theatre had been discussed but there was no decision due to inaccuracies in the presentation of the scheme.

7.9 Councillor Bowden had been re-elected as the Chair of the Economic Development & Culture Committee. The Policy & Resources Committee on the 1 June, 2014 would be voting on the restructure of a Health & Wellbeing Board which should be more effective and incorporate adult social services. The Chair of Adult Social Care would have a place on there. Members were informed to try and get representation on this. At the recent Housing Committee meeting a Letters report had been heard about the legalistic and threatening tone of letters across the board, which could alarm older recipients. The National Pensioners Convention were seeking to establish a Brighton branch and was running a national campaign on bus passes. A local NPC could compliment the work that the OPC were carrying out.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 A member of the public raised a potential issue that younger people in their forties were being placed in sheltered accommodation which was meant for older people. Peter Huntbach (Older Person's Housing Manager) confirmed that the entry age was under review and that previously it was for people aged 50+.

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of