



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

# Older People's Council

Title:	<b>Older People's Council</b>
Date:	<b>16 February 2016</b>
Time:	<b>10.15am</b>
Venue	<b>Conference Room 2, Jubilee Library, Jubilee Street, Brighton</b>
Members:	Bojczuk (Chair), Bryrne, Shields, Vincent, Tonks, Eyles and Morley. Goslett and Hazlegrove.
Contact:	Karen Amsden Scrutiny Support Officer 01273 29-04501038 kath.vlcek@brighton-hove.gov.uk



### **Older People's Council – Our Mission and Vision**

We are elected to serve older people. We work to ensure that all older people in Brighton & Hove are treated with respect and dignity and have access to services, support and the opportunity to lead a fulfilling life. We are working to create a city where: the contribution of all older people is acknowledged and valued; the needs of older people are recognised and met ; and older people are involved in making decisions that affect their daily lives and the communities in which they live.

**Brighton & Hove's Older People's Council in association with Age UK Brighton & Hove and Pensioner Action**



## AGENDA

**Part One**

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**171 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

Apologies and Declarations of Interest.

**172 MINUTES**

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To consider (a) the minutes of the last meeting held on 19.01.16 and (b) matters arising from the minutes.

**173 BUDGET - UPDATE ON OPC REPRESENTATIONS**

**174 FAIRNESS COMMISSION - PROGRESS REPORT**

To hear from Bill Randall the Vice Chair of the Brighton & Hove Fairness Commission

**175 AGE FRIENDLY CITY UPDATE**

**176 OPC BUDGET**

**177 SECRETARY'S UPDATE**

**178 MEMBERS' UPDATE**

**179 OPC WORK PROGRAMME**

**180 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

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Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

## OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

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**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL**

**10.15am 19 JANUARY 2016**

**ROOM 122, KING'S HOUSE**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mike Bojczuk (Chair), Colin Vincent, Francis Tonks, John Eyles and Lynne Shields

**Co-opted Members:** Nick Goslett, Jack Hazelgrove (OPC) and Councillor Karen Barford (Labour & Co-operative Group)

**PART ONE**

**160 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

- 160.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and welcomed back Jack Hazelgrove, who had re-joined the OPC as a co-optee.
- 160.2 The Age UK representatives gave a brief update on their work, including a forthcoming breakfast meeting with Councillor Warren Morgan. They had a number of issues that they wanted to raise with him, including digital inclusion, planning for housing for older people, the Fairness Commission work and so on. OPC members commented too, raising the issue of proposed changes to bus passes.

**161 MINUTES**

- 161.1 There were a couple of small amendments to the previous minutes; these were agreed.
- 161.2 Matters arising - 151.6 - a group submission had been made to the Fairness Commission  
154.2 a letter has been sent to Age UK with a notice asking for a volunteer.

**162 ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

- 162.1 Denise D'Souza, Executive Director, Adult Services, updated OPC members on what was happening in Adult Social Care in BHCC. She had already met OPC officers and was aware of a number of their concerns, so this was intended as an update on those issues.
- 162.2 The budget proposals were still being worked out, but the best estimates are that there is still going to be a £2.6 million budget gap; this does not include the impact of paying all staff and contracted staff a living wage, which would have a huge impact, especially

for care workers. In order to make sure that there is a viable care home market in the city, work has to take place to accelerate the introduction of a living wage for all staff, otherwise there is a strong chance that it will not be possible to recruit to those posts.

162.3 There has been a huge increase in demand for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard (DOLS) assessments; there has been an increase from an average of three requests per week to 54 per week. Every one of these assessments also leads to regular reviews in the future, leading to an ever increasing work load. They are using agency staff to carry out some of these assessments.

162.4 The department is reviewing its use of technology, e.g. asking people to carry out self-assessments more. We have to trust that people can complete the assessments accurately and honestly for themselves or others, using technology as needed. The Chair commented that this might exclude people who live by themselves. Ms D'Souza said that the planned clustering of GPs would help to address this, by having a collection of GPs who could offer a range of options to help. Age UK commented that care coaches and community navigators had been employed by some of the clusters; their role would be to support the 'frequent flyer' service users including older people, who might need other support. There is also the Access Point service offered by BHCC.

Age UK commented that there was a perception amongst some older people that if you showed any vulnerability, you would be 'put into a home'. A message needs to be shared that this is not the case, and that if you do need support, it will be in your own home.

162.5 OPC members asked for an update on Tower House; there had been other options identified, had these been added into the consultation process. Ms D'Souza said that Tower House staff had been tasked to find out more information on a number of the proposals, although her initial feeling was that some of the proposals (e.g. hiring out rooms to other groups) were not viable options. There are vacancies in day services across the city; the issue isn't the lack of referrals but about giving people more choice and more local services. However they recognised the value of the friendship groups that had been formed at Tower House and this would be supported as much as possible.

162.6 Ms D' Souza was unable to give any information about the Meals on Wheels service at present but discussions were underway and the OPC would be kept updated.

162.7 Ms D'Souza gave an update on the Homecare service. 90% of this was provided through the independent sector. The 10% that the council provides is largely the re-ablement service, which is a high cost service currently, due to the way that working arrangements had evolved. This was under consideration.

162.8 Members asked how any potential precept money would be invested. Ms D'Souza said that it would be most likely to be used to fill some of the budget gaps identified to help provide adult social care across the city. The highest budget pressures came from Learning Disabilities and Mental Health services. Without the precept, the gap in funding the saving and the need to increase fees to providers to meet the national living wage –

it was important to understand ASC are not in a position to reduce any budget saving that is currently part of the saving proposal.

- 162.9 Even if funds were unlimited, Ms D'Souza would still wish to review services offered by Tower House and the Independence at Home Service amongst other services. Both services didn't represent good value for money in their current form.

### **163 FAIRNESS COMMISSION**

- 163.1 OPC members will be attending a meeting at Leach Court on 20 January 2016 to talk to the manager about the Fairness Commission. Members are actively trying to go to as many public meetings as possible to discuss the FC work. The Chair is also going to try and arrange for another meeting via Peter Huntbach, Head of Sheltered Housing. The OPC are trying to arrange a meeting with the Youth Council but this is still to be confirmed.
- 163.2 The OPC has already made its initial submission as requested. The Chair said he would circulate what had been submitted.

The Chair reminded members that case studies would be helpful for the fuller submission.

### **164 BUDGET**

- 164.1 The OPC has produced and circulated a press release regarding the budget; the Brighton and Hove Independent had published it. The Argus however had not published the letter regarding bus pass changes.
- 164.2 OPC members have already sent a letter to Denise D'Souza detailing their concerns on adult social care direction of travel. It was agreed to send this letter to key councillors, with some additional information as needed.

### **165 AGE FRIENDLY CITIES UPDATE**

- 165.1 Lynne went to the AFC steering group meeting yesterday; there was discussion over whether to prioritise mental health or sexual health, but she felt that Public Health colleagues wanted to focus on sexual health.

There may be scope for mental health to be taken up by the Fairness Commission as dementia and suicide were both key issues.

### **166 HEDGECOCK FUND/ OPC BUDGET**

- 166.1 Lynne is now OPC Treasurer but does not have much historic information about financial information for the OPC. She needs someone to liaise with in-house. The money that the OPC has (other than covering staffing support costs) needs to cover

room hire, printing costs, refreshments etc

166.2 The Chair suggested turning day to day work into projects which could then be used to seek grant funding as needed.

## 167 SECRETARY'S UPDATE

**Budget** - Press release sent to The Argus, B & H Independent & B& H News. Article by BH Independent 18/12. Letters sent to The Argus re Bus Passes but not published to date. Attended session re Equality Impact Assessments on ASC on 17th December. Need to decide next steps - a brief for lobbying Councillors & for the 16th Feb & speaker?

- **Adult Social Care** - Response to our letter from Denise D'Souza on 18/12 circulated. Invited to January meeting for further discussion re the response & 2% precept for Adult Social Care.

- **Council Leader** - we are awaiting a date for a meeting. We wish to discuss issues relating to the budget and the impact on older people.

- **Age Friendly City Forum** - contacted Age UK with offer of expenses from OPC if they provide a volunteer and awaiting a response. Meeting held in January concern expressed about the viability of the group without support and need for greater involvement of older people in AFC process.

- **Age Friendly City Steering Group** - informed Annie Alexander about support for mental health as priority. Prevention of Falls action plan, any comments by end of January & will then go to H&WBB. Dementia Conference details circulated, to be held on Thursday 24th March at 12.00 at American Express Stadium.

- **Fairness Commission** - Form redesigned by Chair for meetings in Jan & Feb & general use. Initial submission sent to commissioners re OPC response - feedback from meetings & supplementary information will be built into a further response due by end of Feb to feed into process.

- **Library Services** - Consultation portal circulated by Chair. Hove, Hollingbury & Westdene particularly affected. The consultation portal was quite limited - do we want to make further representations?

- **OPC storage in basement** - OPC papers etc held in basement. These need to be cleared from Kings House due to move - suggestions for clearance/storage?

- **CCG - short-term care procurement** - A meeting has been arranged for the 26<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30 in Kings House to discuss process being used in procurement.

- **Tower House** - It has been arranged for Vice-Chair & Sec to sit in on briefing sessions re self-funding on the 25th January.

- **Alzheimers Society** - contacted OPC seeking to meet - suggest contact to establish relationship re Brighton services and how we can work together.

- **Sussex PCC Elders** - Launch of their report at Parliament on 8th March and have been in contact with Chair.



- **Erasmus** - Partner search by University of Valencia circulated & officers decided that they were looking for Erasmus/education link. We have forwarded to Age UK & University of Brighton to see if they are interested.
- **NPC Brighton** - notification of next meeting on Tuesday 16th February at 2.00 with speakers from political parties & Unison. Also national campaign petition & bulletin circulated.
- **Healthwatch** - contacted by Finance Director re bus passes. FOI response from BHCC - bus passes cost £10.8 million. Government money from Revenue Support Grant but declining & estimate underfunding of £6 million in 2015/16. Response circulated pointing out budget proposals & drawing the attention of Healthwatch to this issue. Nick has also alerted patients CCG rep Mike Holdgate to this issue.

### Invitations

- **City Wide Connect** - notification of future meetings - East Hub 2nd March at 10.30 Dorset Gardens, North/Central Hub 9th March 10.30 at Brighthelm, West Hub at 16th March at 10.30 at King Alfred. [www.thefedonline.org.uk/citywideconnect](http://www.thefedonline.org.uk/citywideconnect)
- **CQC** - Health & Adult Social Care Regulation - public consultations - nearest one in London on 29th January. They are also seeking case studies of people 65+ with experiences of health & social care good or bad.
- **Exeter Hall** - Don't leave me now - Play about dementia on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February afternoon & evening performances.
- **Take Part** - advance notice of Sport & Physical Activity taster sessions. June 18th to July 3rd. An event at King Alfred for older people on 30th June.
- **Know My Neighbour** - Meeting on the 4th February at One Church, Gloucester Place at 3.00.

### Newsletters/Petitions

- **Age Action Alliance** - regular newsletter.
- **Age UK** - Petition re social isolation "no one should have no one" .
- **Community Works** - Brighton info re range of vol sector groups & info
- **Fabrica** - Information about a range of cultural events in January & February
- **Trades Council** - Lynne circulated dates of a range of events in January including a demonstration say No to Council Cuts on the 30th January.
- **Portslade LAT meeting** - 18th January they are merging with Portslade Community Forum using West Hove Forum/LAT as model

### 168 MEMBERS' UPDATE

- Nick Goslett had been to Due East with Lynne to share knowledge
- John - has been too unwell to attend any meetings this month
- Lynne - the distribution of the Christmas parcels has finished; they have identified vulnerable older people, working with the police etc. She has taken over the phone rota; she visited Portslade group through the TDC, talking about the OPC and value of social groups.

- Mike - has been focussing on Fairness Commission work, also Albion in the Community and homeless work
- Colin - has been focussing on scrutiny work; Fairness Commission and Sheltered housing group
- Penny – nothing more to add

**169 OPC WORK PROGRAMME**

- February - budget and FC
- March - Mike Holdgate
- April - planning and housing for older people

**170 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

170.1 Members were going to the basement to consider OPC storage needs straight after this meeting.

The meeting concluded at 1pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of