

North Norfolk Older People's Forum
North Norfolk District Council
AGM Minutes
Monday 18th July 2011

Guests: Harold Bodmer – Director of Community Services Norfolk Council, Councillor Angie Fitch-Tillett – Cabinet Member Health & Wellbeing North Norfolk District Council, Rebecca Champion and Nigel Stewart – Health Improvement Specialist and Project Manager for North Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group

1. Chair's Report

The meeting was opened by Mary Granville-White Chair of the North Norfolk Older Peoples Forum. Mary welcomed everybody to the meeting and proceeded to deliver the Chairs Report for 2010/11 Mary said it had been a challenging yet satisfying year and thanked the executive team members, Norfolk County & North Norfolk District Councils for their support. She also thanked the various representatives of the Forum who all provide opportunities to take the work of the Forum out to more people in the community and also the members who provide support, patience and encouragement and who work together to make things happen and pass on ideas where they feel the Forum may be able to assist.

Mary said that the focus of the coming year would be on carers and that the Forum would work in partnership with other organisations to assist and provide advice wherever possible. Mary went on to explain that unfortunately the Forum had been unable to afford to pay for a newsletter this year however she was writing a monthly article for the Town and Country newspaper and any ideas as to content for articles would be welcomed. Mary was keen to get ideas from anyone who felt there was a particular group of people who would benefit from the Forum's expertise and suggested that they could contact her either by phone or email.

Mary then introduced the day's first speaker Mr Harold Bodmer – Director of Community Services for Norfolk County Council.

2. Harold Bodmer – Director of Community Services for Norfolk County Council

Mr Bodmer discussed the ageing population in North Norfolk and said that the aged over 65 population in North Norfolk was likely to increase by 57% over the next 20 years, and that the population of aged over 85's would increase by 87%. He said that currently 20% of the over 65's have some degree of social care needs and that by 2014 demographic pressure will add £30 million to the Council's care costs. He said that 81% of people over 85 live at home primarily in small settlements which causes problems of isolation and how to deliver services to them.

Mr Bodmer then talked about the Norfolk Big Conversation which involved proposed budget reductions of 28% over the next three years - equivalent to £150 million, how services will be changing over the next few years and how NHS funding for the county will be used. He said that prevention was the key in relation to illnesses and that there were plans to implement a new healthy living programme.

Mr Bodmer also discussed social care implications and possible changes under the Dilnot enquiry into funding and said that he felt that there needed to be a change in the law in relation to social care. He highlighted that the recent Panorama programme in relation to care homes, and also the recent financial problems of Southern Cross, all raised public perception of care issues. He also talked about the Joint Commission in Health and Social Care Commissioning Team, the flexibility of Self Directed Support and the use of personal budgets, greater need for integration of care within the NHS and the formation of new partnerships with citizens and community groups.

3. Councillor Angie Fitch-Tillett

Councillor Fitch-Tillett said that her responsibilities were for Coastal Regions and Health and Wellbeing. She said that the coastal area she is responsible for 43 miles of the North Norfolk coastline. She also said that she was not a health professional but she was interested in wellbeing. She discussed the budget cuts in preventative medicine, the challenges of coastal erosion, the problems with transport links in the area in relation to public transport and the region's secondary road network. She said that some of the challenges in the county were the high house prices so that younger people could not afford to live here and there was increased unemployment, few career pathways and low wages in the region. However, she said that older people were a valuable part of the community and it was vital that everybody worked together to utilise the resources available and direct finances in the most appropriate ways. She said that gender, age, ethnicity and hereditary factors all affect a person's health and well being as well as their individual life style choices, their housing, education and employment. She said it was important to promote health and wellbeing and to encourage people to make the correct life time choices to enable them to live long, healthy and fit lives.

4. Rebecca Champion – Health Improvement Specialist NHS Norfolk

Ms Champion explained that she now worked with the region's GP's which is an extra resource for Clinical Commissioners and GP Practices and her role is to support the reduction of health inequalities and the development of health improvement activity. She said her role was to give advice and support in relation to the development of new and existing services and to make links between GP practices and local partnerships. She said that in North Norfolk as the population is living longer there are increasing numbers of people with complex health problems which needed to be addressed and that it was important to ensure that everybody received the assistance that they required. However, she said that it was not all doom and gloom and that the public health sector is moving back to local government which would help with future decision making.

5. Nigel Stewart North Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group

Mr Stewart discussed the formation of the North Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group (the Group) which is a new local health management organisation which will be central to NHS reform. The Group will comprise of 20 GP Practices and patient representatives and an executive group which contains 5 GP's and 5 managers. The Group's role will split into two parts the first being the purchasing of services (with a budget of £270 million) and the second being the managing health care delivery and associated resources. The Group will cover a population of 166,500 people. However, the Norfolk Primary Care Trust is still in charge until April next year at which point the Group will take over. The Group's goals and strategies will be to assess health needs and identify priority groups, re-design to provide more local and efficient services, develop effective partnerships by working with local commissioners and providers, and reduce health and equality including access to services. Mr Stewart said that they would be looking at a "Just in Time" service. This is to get the right care to the right people at the right time. He said that local knowledge was very important and it was therefore vital to identify local people who need help. There are currently 350 people in North Norfolk who are high priority.

He said that it is important to ensure all patients are involved and all 20 GP practices in the area have patient participation groups which will meet twice a year. He said that it is vital that good communication is put in place to ensure that a successful and efficient new process is implemented as soon as possible.

6. AGM

Treasurer Gordon Little delivered the financial report (a copy of which is attached). He said the Forum has been receiving some small donations and there is a £300 donation to come from Norfolk County Council. The greatest expense in recent years has been the production of the Live Wire newsletter and it has been decided that this will not be continued due to the cost. However a one page news-sheet will be produced and Mary re-affirmed that she is producing an article for the Town and Country Newspaper every month to publicise the North Norfolk Older Peoples Forum.

Mary said it was essential that the Forum got more people on board and suggested that perhaps local businesses could sponsor the Forum to bring in some additional money. One member suggested doing door to door surveys to get more information about older people in the community but it was decided that the Forum did not really have the resources to carry out such a survey. Mary said it was useful to have the open meetings to see what people want and Mary asked for a volunteer to attend some meetings as she was not able to undertake everything herself.

There was discussion as to whether the Forum should introduce a membership fee but it was resoundingly declined. It was agreed that the Live Wire newsletter was excellent however too expensive and the Executive will discuss at the next meeting a design for a new news-sheet which may be distributed through Cromer. Mary said she had recently attended a meeting of 38 people in Wells and over 20 of them had signed up as new members. She had also met the facilitator in Wells and so it would be easier to get information to that side of the county. She said that the biggest problem was getting people to come to the meetings as it was such a wide area. One suggestion was that the Forum contacts the Parish Councils to see whether they can help with publicity and it was thought that this was a good idea.

7. Membership Executive Team

Lesley Thompson member secretary has decided to step down and Mary thanked her for all her wonderful assistance, Betty Balding has also stepped down due to her commitments. Mary said it was extremely important to have an Age UK representative on the Forum and it is hoped that this will be the case. Mary also thanked Colleen Hubbard from the social services team as she has moved on to a new role and John Everson will be her replacement who will also attend the Forum.

Mary Granville-White, John Perry-Warnes, Sue Arnold, Jean Norman, Gloria Lisher, Cath Plewman, were all accepted onto the committee for the coming year.

There are currently 5 vacancies on the Forum 1 position was filled by David Russell. Mary said that it was hoped that there would be more new faces on the Forum before too much longer.

Mary then closed the meeting it being 5.30pm and thanked everybody for their attendance.

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