

WAAFA Minutes 20150521

Winchester Area Access for All (WAAFA) Meeting

Held Thursday, 21st May 2015 at 11.30am

At Winchester GO LD Offices, Winchester Discovery Centre, Jewry Street, SO23 8SB

1. Present: Keith Hatter (Chairman, Visual Impairment), Zanel Neethling (Minutes, Secretary), Mike Green (WADSAD), Janet Chierchia (Treasurer, Winchester GO LD), Jim Harrison (Visitor; Vice-Chairman Havant 50+ Forum, Volunteering Champion), Joanna Gard & Julie Tenner-Jenner (Winchester OPCIS), Kris Mayer (Parent Voice Winchester).

2. Apologies: Jackie Porter (HCC Cllr), Penny Parkinson (Osborne School), Margaret Gunn (Wheelchair User), Kim Walsgrove (HCC Senior Access Manager), Andy Cadle-Mills (Spinal Injuries Association).

3. Minutes: Action Points from minutes of meeting held 16 April 2015 were read and agreed.

4. Matters Arising:

4.1 Feedback to SENDPO: 'thank you' email to send to Theresa Hodge. **ZN/KH**

4.2 Contact Peter Symonds: KH has done this. Winchester GO LD will have volunteers from Peter Symonds College to assist members and may be able to complete more surveys in the near future.

4.3 SPECTRUM CIL Event: ULO event taking place and possibly source of volunteers.

4.4 Bank account: Has been signed and sent off on 5th May, and should receive all information in 2 weeks. MG (Margaret Gunn), ACM, KH and JC are signatories for account.

4.5 HCC Implementation of 2014 Care Act: Second session taking place in future as oversubscribed at recent event, KH attending.

***Update:** Event now taking place on Friday 29th May 2015 at the HCC Adults Services offices in Winchester at 9.30am – 12pm. Deadline for spaces is Tuesday 26th May 2015.

4.6 KH to contact Steve Brine re: parking on pavements: KH giving some time to MP to settle into new Parliament before approaching him on this subject.

4.7 E-newsletter Issue 6: Being launched in June 2015. Articles include; WAAFA Information Day Event, GAS and volunteer request, Meon Valley Cottages (accessible local holiday destination), ITV link to news article on Richard Wheeler local to Winchester with visual impairment (made video on living with sight loss), a possible a short interview with Jim Harrison (volunteering champion) and Inclusive Cycling events in New Forest and Basingstoke over summer 2015.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Only have the Have Your Say grant money left available (report by ZN to include outstanding invoice hours and be resubmitted to Jean Field and response to Tanya

Dowthwaite (new Finance Manager for the merged organisation that includes WACA). However balance is not confirmed, JC will enquire balance up until 31 March 2015 with WACA. Services ended with WACA at end of March 2015.

6. Parent Voice Winchester (Kris Mayer):

Parent Voice is a Hampshire-wide organisation that provides information and signposting to young people (up to 25 years of age) and carers on all aspects of life; DLA, PIP etc. Also looking for leisure opportunities ensuring they can access this in community. They provide a Gateway scheme with a card, where extra support may be needed. A person can then pay for the activity with the card and then apply with HCC for extra support. Also offer independent support for education and healthcare, especially following recent changes.

Parent Voice hosts local information on their website; it lists everything universally available to everyone. They are developing a young person's website which is content only for the moment, negotiating with HCC to make it more user-friendly.

They will be offering support for Direct Payments in the near future, awaiting training by Independent Lives for people who meet criteria and wants to have DP instead of a provided service.

Parent Voice sends out an email on Thursdays filled with information on what's happening in the county, e.g. range of sporting opportunities for anyone 14+, wheelchair basketball, rugby, etc. These are based on individual needs and the provider(s) are vetted by HCC (DBS cleared, public liability insurance, child protection policy etc.).

Sporting activities contact in Southampton: robertpearce@activenation.org.uk – Tel: 02380 707 802. These services are available at various locations locally (e.g. Eastleigh etc.) However, they are currently oversubscribed.

Winchester area copy of Gateway Magazine (available on file with ZN)

Action: email info for web linked in – and e-news request.

7. Older Persons Community Independence Services (OPCIS) – Joanna Gard & Julie Terry-Jenner:

JG and JTJ work at Andover MIND which has a contract with HCC, one of 5 providers for Hampshire area providing OPCIS service. Historically back in April supporting peoples contracts were cut in Hampshire (for financial reasons) now new contracts are out. OPCIS offers prevention and early intervention work with older persons (55+) who are at risk of social isolation and/or mental health etc. They offer a 12 week period where they do whatever is necessary to help older people to integrate back in with the community.

All referrals have to be made by the Independence Team (HCC and other agencies); e.g. people with mental health that need support, but it's not 'bad' enough to access social services. OPCIS assists then with getting them back into the community, e.g. mobility problems, tele care etc. (Prince's Trust for Carers – emergency planning). Reason for

referral process – need assessment to see if they do need social services intervention, if not then they may be put forward for OPCIS.

Currently networking service to people, to make them aware of the service being offered as it is a new initiative which started in April 2015, and they can then contact HCC to request a referral for this. (Referrals can also be made by GP or others that can contact HCC direct or OPCIS). Can self-refer, but will have to go through assessment with HCC.

OPCIS offices are based at Winnall and they cover the whole of the Winchester District, also other teams in other areas. People in rural areas have specific problems like unable to get out and about and a lot of places don't have voluntary transport, there are many different ways to enable people to be part of community and to have independence in their own homes.

Action: email request for e-news article.

8. Good Accessibility Scheme (timetable of next phases):

Good idea to incorporate Phase 2B and Phase 3 and complete over summer 2015. Access Awards ceremony discussed to be scheduled for Oct/Nov 2015.

Action: ZN to send list of Phase 3 shops to JC

Action: suggested to contact volunteer centres/companies for group bookings of volunteers for GAS surveys - ZN

9. Information Day Event 2015 (Feedback):

HYS grant report available from ZN on request. Mentioned challenges faced and overcoming those challenges with event day; Saturday date placement vs weekday placement, rail travel disruptions with bus replacements from Winchester to Eastleigh/Basingstoke (all directions), wider publicity needed, speaker confirmation (and having a back-up speaker ready just in case) and advertising that lunch is provided at the event.

10. Communications with other organisations:

10.1 HCC Implementation of Care Act: Statutory duties - will try and put additional service into person that needs support (will they give carer a break?). May be one or two high profile cases around country with people who will take Local Authority to court for breaching the law of not meeting people's needs. Adult Services are struggling at the moment as they have had a 20% cut this year, and will have another 20% cut next year. Not enough staff to do the assessments or services (which includes community groups; e.g. lunch clubs, transport etc. – rural area car-share scheme raises concern). Also issue with fewer volunteers as many people have to work or prove they are looking for work.

10.2 SENDPO: New members area on web and meeting taking place today 21/05/2015.

10.3 Inclusive Cycling: Independent living offering inclusive cycling in New Forest (and Basingstoke) over summer.

10.4 WACA: has a new 'community resource' area on website for organisations; WAAFA details have been submitted.

10.5 Wallops Wood Cottages: Accessible holiday cottages in Meon Valley, leaflets are

available from ZN. They are including our advertisement for a request for volunteers for GAS in newsletter. **Action: ZN to follow-up**

10.6 Minutes of Gosport Access Group: Available from KH to circulate and also their newsletter to anyone that is interested.

10.7 Nour Belal: Offered legal advice for WAAFA. Did not attend information day and not heard anything since. KH wanted to contact her to look into Hanover Buildings bus stops in Southampton.

10.8 Ongoing campaign by Guide Dogs 'parking on pavements': KH not happy with their ability to communicate; KH unable to access website, have telephoned and left several messages, none of which has been returned. Campaigning for Legislation to be enacted to make parking on pavements illegal.

10.9 SPECTRUM CIL – 'Employers Skills' workshops by Independent Lives: Relating to Direct Payments for people who are either receiving DPs or thinking about having DPs instead of service(s) provided by LA or continuing healthcare. Also encourage to pay a pension to PA's (April 2016). **Action: KH/ZN to circulate.**

10.10 Steve Manley – Film on Implementation of Care Act: SM can either come to groups to show film or it is available to view at HealthWatch Hampshire website (www.healthwatchhampshire.co.uk). **Action: ZN to circulate.**

10.11 SPECTRUM CIL – Extended Networking Event: Monday 1 June at HCC (Mitchell Room) – recruit volunteers etc. Free lunch provided at 1pm.

Action: book place for KH/ZN.

10.12 Winchester Dementia Bluebird Care Event: Invited to attend with stall/stand, but unable to attend.

10.13 Disabled person's bus pass: Since 1 April senior citizen's bus-passes are no longer valid before 9.30am; however disabled person's bus pass is still valid. They had re-programmed card readers on busses, but the exception for Disabled persons was missed. KH reports a lady had bus pass refused at 8.30am travelling to work, most drivers did realise the problem and said it was ok, however a few did not including an inspector who asked her ID and eventually accepted the fact that she is entitled to travel on the bus. Stagecoach and Park & Ride were contacted - KH assured all drivers aware of this issue. The lady and KH are invited to attend bus station and ensure card in card reader is working and if there are any issues (tomorrow, Friday 22 May, KH will be travelling on Bluestar no.1 bus to see if there are any issues).

10.14 Disabled Access Day 2016: Initiative to get disabled people to attend avenue or premises that they have not visited before. Suggested by ZN to see if could be linked into this event for review of Phase 1 GAS premises.

10.15 Ramp Up 2016: Initiative in Toronto, Canada with Steve Pollard about offering 6 local communities organisation's with single step entryway to get a roll-out portable ramp. ZN suggested for incorporating this into the WAAFA GAS, however these types of ramps are already available to most shops or premises in Winchester city centre.

11. AOB:

11.1 Radar Keys: Kim Walsgrove had emailed question about universal Radar keys, which are available direct from website of Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation. The keys are reported to cost approx. £5.00. However, staff at the library

are happy to guide or direct customers to changing places toilet if needed.

Action: email KW with details.

11.2 Circulation Lists: Confirmed to have two circulation lists for emails; internal (for meeting Agenda and Minutes) and external (for FYI emails on events etc.)

Action: KH/ZN to amend circulation lists.

11.3 ZNs move to Spain: June of 2016, Easter 2016 will assist KH to find replacement.

The meeting ended at 12:50.

Dates of next meeting – **Please note all meetings until November 2015 will be held at the Winchester GO LD offices at The Winchester Discovery Centre (library) – please ask at reception if you are unsure:**

Thursdays; 18th June, 16th July, 17th September, 15th October and 19th November 2015.

Action Points:

4.1 Matter's arising: Action: Feedback to SENDPO – 'thank you' note – KH/ZN

6. Parent Voice Winchester: Action: email e-news article/advert request – add link to WAAFA web.

7. OPCIS: Action: email e-news advert/article request – add link to WAAFA web.

8. GAS: Action: ZN to send list of Phase 3 shops to JC

Action: suggested to contact volunteer centres/companies for group bookings of volunteers for GAS surveys – ZN

10.5 Wallops Wood Cottages: Action: ZN to follow-up with GAS request volunteers in their e-news

10.9 SPECTRUM CIL – 'Employers Skills' workshops by Independent Lives: Action: KH/ZN to circulate.

10.10 Steve Manley – Film on Implementation of Care Act: Action: ZN to circulate.

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