

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND DISABLED PEOPLE
TASK AND FINISH PANEL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 22 JUNE 2006
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.00 - 8.00 PM**

Members Present:	Mrs S Perry (Chairman), Mrs J H Whitehouse (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A Cooper, P House, D Kelly and P Turpin
Other members present:	(none)
Apologies for Absence:	D Bateman and K Wright
Officers Present	J Scott (Joint Chief Executive), D Macnab (Head of Leisure Services), R Wilson (Assistant Head of Housing Services (Operations)) and A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer)
Also in attendance:	(none)

1. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

Noted that there were no substitute members.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct, Councillor D Kelly declared a personal interest by virtue of being the Chairman of the Epping Forest Older People Advisory Group. He declared that his interest was not prejudicial and he would remain in the meeting.

Pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct, Councillor Mrs Whitehouse declared a personal interest by virtue of being a member of the Epping Forest Older People Advisory Group. She declared that her interest was not prejudicial and she would remain in the meeting.

3. SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

The Chairman declared that if they wanted to meet the deadline for the budget fixing round for next year, the Task and Finish Panel should make any recommendations that identified a need for extra spending, by 18 September 2006.

The meeting wanted to:

- Identify gaps in the system;
- Be made aware of the people not in the system;
- Find a way to get messages through to people who do not know about the services on offer;
- Find out about the specialist transport on offer;
- Find out what services the Council provides; and
- What services VAEF provided.

With the impending Disabled Discrimination Act coming into being – does EFDC have to do anything in preparation?

The Task and Finish Panel would also like to meet with the Joint Management Team for Older People's Services and the Older People Advisory Group.

Housing and Leisure officers have a lot of input into Older and Disabled Persons services and should be included with the meeting with the Joint Management Team.

The Panel should consider co-opting Kay Ellis, Chairman of the Joint Management Team, onto this T&F panel.

Another problem identified was the need to find replacements for the volunteers who presently help out/run the day centres etc. as they too are aging.

Councillor Mrs Cooper would like to look at the Taxi Card System operated elsewhere.

Councillor Mrs Whitehouse would like panel members to visit older peoples clubs etc. within their wards to talk to and question them about their needs. She thought that a standard set of questions/ topics might prove useful.

The panel decided that when looking at people with disabilities that they would not limit themselves to just older people with disabilities but consider the whole age spectrum.

The Assistant Head of Housing informed the Panel:

- That they had contact with a Sheltered Housing Forum that would provide interesting input to the Panel and he would arrange a meeting with them;
- There is also a Supporting People group that could provide interesting input to the Panel;
- That they were setting up a project team to look at the future of Sheltered Housing;
- A Housing review of care-line services was also in progress; also
- There was a new issue about 'Tele-Care' equipment that can be added to existing alarm systems.

The Head of Leisure Services commented that they provide a range of services with the PCT, work with people with dispraxia and provide specialist sessions in the Leisure Centres/Swimming Pools. They also go to schools, do arts development work, and access to museums. The Panel should go and see these things in person, talk to the parents and meet the children.

RESOLVED:

1. To make any initial recommendations that may have an impact on the Council budget, by 18 September 2006, in time to be considered for the next financial year.
2. To consider disabled people of all ages and not just the older age range.

3. To arrange a meeting with the Joint Management Team for Older People Services at the next scheduled meeting of this Panel.
4. To receive a list of services provided by the Council for Older People.
5. To invite Kay Ellis to become a co-opted member of this Panel.
6. To gather as much information as possible by:
 - speaking to older people at their clubs and other venues within each panel members wards;
 - Councillor Whitehouse to draw up a draft set of questions to be used as a basic framework for use at each interview;
 - To arrange a meeting with members of the Older People Advisory Group (Councillor Kelly to arrange);
 - setting up meetings with the Sheltered Housing Forum, Careline, the Supporting People Group, and the various Leisure Service's disabled provisions and schemes;
 - speaking with officers of the Council with relevant experience such as Lindsay Swan, the Private Sector Housing officer and CARE manager.
7. To investigate the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act and its relevance to EFDC.
8. To find out about the facilities for disabled people at the Council Offices.
9. To find out more about bus passes for older people, as presently they do not seem to work on the busses that are used/needed by the pass holders.
10. To investigate the Taxi Card System that is operated by other Authorities.

4. WORK PROGRAMME

1. Any recommendations to do with budgets to be finalised by 18 September 2006.
2. To arrange a meeting with the Joint Management Team for Older People Services to be arranged for the 20th July meeting.
3. A more detailed Work Programme is to be worked out as more information is gathered and timescales can be better approximated by the size of the workload anticipated.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting was agreed to be held on Thursday 20 July 2006 at 7pm. It was hoped that visits to the Sheltered Housing Forum, Careline and the Parsonage Court

**Services for Older People and Disabled People Task and Finish Panel Thursday, 22
June 2006**

Day Club, and some of the Leisure Services venues could be arranged to take place before 20 July.