

**Older People and Disabled People Task and Finish Panel Recommendations**

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee seek a commitment from the West Essex Primary Care Trust as to their continued support for the work of the Joint management Team for Services to Older People in the Epping Forest District.
2. That the Essex County Council be invited to:
  - give a similar commitment to the work of the Joint Management Team;
  - explain how it assesses the needs of older people within the Epping Forest District; and
  - how its services meet those needs and its plans to address the issues identified in the Local Government Association report "Without a care".
3. That subject to satisfactory answers in relation to recommendation 1 and 2 above and the continuation of the Joint Management team who oversee services provided for older people, we would like to see the following options taken forward:
  - the development of a one-stop shop to provide advice on the services available for older people and how these services can be assessed. This could be, for example, through the Council's Careline Services;
  - the provision of an updated directory of services available for older people – this would be an essential part of the one-stop shop provision;
  - the holding of a further summit on Services for Older People in order to check on progress made and identify any new issues or concerns that need to be addressed.
  - development of the Older People's Action Group (OPAG) in order to enable it to continue as an independent pressure group in relation to issues that affect Older People.
4. That the Portfolio Holder for Community Wellbeing be asked to identify grant aid support to help develop the OPAG as an independent and self financing organisation which supports and encourages the valuable contribution made by Older People to our society, encourages Older People to support each other and that the Council then makes use of that organisation as part of its ongoing consultation strategy.
5. That the Portfolio Holder for Leisure Services be asked to investigate and report back on how Leisure Services can assist in:
  - providing an healthy living approach which helps meet the social needs of the growing number of older people;
  - continue targeted projects such as that provided through the Arts Service "A Sense of Place"; and
  - the continued provision of the seated exercise programme.
6. That further DDF funding in the sum of £3000 be made available to the Handypersons' Scheme in the Financial Year 2007/08 and that during the course of 2007/08 the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Performance Management identify a means by which the DDF grant can become part of the CSB so that the value of the money is maintained on an ongoing basis.

## APPENDIX 1

7. That the availability of the Handypersons Scheme be advertised more widely through The Forester.

8. That the changes to the Concessionary Fare Scheme proposed by Government be kept under review in order to monitor:

- any financial implications for the Council;
- whether in the light of the changes proposed the separate scheme with Transport for London is still necessary.

9. That the Council sponsored Day Clubs for the more housebound older people provided in association with Housing Services have provided a valuable and much appreciated service, but should be kept under review in the light of:

- difficulties in recruiting volunteers to help run them;
- difficulties in providing transport to and from the Clubs;
- falling attendances.

10. That whilst the Council has done a great deal to address equality issues within its Service provisions there is still a great deal more which needs to be done. In particular we recognised the resources issues within Service Areas generally and that a specialist consultant has been employed to help produce the Disability Equality Scheme. This work needs to be brought to a conclusion and the scheme published without further delay.