



Brighton & Hove
City Council

Overview & Scrutiny

Title:	Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee Ad Hoc Panel - Older People and Community Safety
Date:	24 April 2009
Time:	11.00am
Venue	Valley Social Centre, Whitehawk Way Brighton BN2 5HE
Members:	Councillors: Mo Marsh (Chairman), Amy Kennedy, David Smart and David Watkins Co-optee: Mr John Eyles (Older People's Council)
Contact:	Mary van Beinum, Scrutiny Support Officer (01273) 29-1062 Mary.vanbeinum@brighton-hove.gov.uk

AGENDA

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1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS	1 - 2
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2. TO NOTE THE REMIT OF SCRUTINY PANEL AND INITIAL FOCUS	
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The remit of the Scrutiny Panel is to investigate

- To what extent are the views of older people known, regarding community safety?
- Do older people have specific concerns about safety in the community?
- How can older people be helped to feel safer in the community?

During the scoping meetings the Panel have been discussing particular areas which they may wish to focus on; including

- Fear of crime and perceptions
- Alcohol related crimes and incidents
- Domestic violence and elder abuse including financial and sexual abuse
- Burglary artifice (door step/ distraction burglary)
- Criminal damage
- Hate crime, those experienced by Black and minority ethnic communities and by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities.

3. INFORMATION GATHERING	3 - 8
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To hear information from;

A) Age Concern (letter attached)

B) Neighbourhood Care Scheme (summary attached)

C) Older People's Mental Health Team

D) Community Safety

4. FUTURE MEETINGS	
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To identify invitees/speakers for future Panel meetings as follows:

11am - 1pm Friday 22 May in Hove Town Hall

11am - 1pm Friday 2 July in Brighton Town Hall

ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AD HOC PANEL - OLDER PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

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.

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

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.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Mary van Beinum or email scrutiny@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication – 16 April 2009

Agenda Item 1

To consider the following Procedural Business:

A. Declaration of Substitutes

Where a Member of the Committee is unable to attend a meeting for whatever reason, a substitute Member (who is not a Cabinet Member) may attend and speak and vote in their place for that meeting. Substitutes are not allowed on Scrutiny Select Committees or Scrutiny Panels.

The substitute Member shall be a Member of the Council drawn from the same political group as the Member who is unable to attend the meeting, and must not already be a Member of the Committee. The substitute Member must declare themselves as a substitute, and be minuted as such, at the beginning of the meeting or as soon as they arrive.

B. Declarations of Interest

- (1) To seek declarations of any personal or personal & prejudicial interests under Part 2 of the Code of Conduct for Members in relation to matters on the Agenda. Members who do declare such interests are required to clearly describe the nature of the interest.
- (2) A Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or a Select Committee has a prejudicial interest in any business at a meeting of that Committee where –
 - (a) that business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by the Executive or another of the Council's committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees; and
 - (b) at the time the decision was made or action was taken the Member was
 - (i) a Member of the Executive or that committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee and
 - (ii) was present when the decision was made or action taken.
- (3) If the interest is a prejudicial interest, the Code requires the Member concerned:
 - (a) to leave the room or chamber where the meeting takes place while the item in respect of which the declaration is made is under consideration. [There are three exceptions to this rule which are set out at paragraph (4) below].
 - (b) not to exercise executive functions in relation to that business and

(c) not to seek improperly to influence a decision about that business.

(4) The circumstances in which a Member who has declared a prejudicial interest is permitted to remain while the item in respect of which the interest has been declared is under consideration are:

- (a) for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the item, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise, BUT the Member must leave immediately after he/she has made the representations, answered the questions, or given the evidence;
- (b) if the Member has obtained a dispensation from the Standards Committee; or
- (c) if the Member is the Leader or a Cabinet Member and has been required to attend before an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Sub-Committee to answer questions.

C. Declaration of Party Whip

To seek declarations of the existence and nature of any party whip in relation to any matter on the Agenda as set out at paragraph 8 of the Overview and Scrutiny Ways of Working.

D. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

NOTE: Any item appearing in Part 2 of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is confidential and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

Letter from Jim Baker, Director Age Concern, Brighton Hove & Portslade

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Age Concern Brighton Hove & Portslade has a central and essential role of ensuring that the perspective of older people in this City is considered by decision makers within the City. Our Mission and Core Values are below, and we hope that these show our desire to act in partnership to ensure that our client group are able to receive a quality, unified, service from all providers across the City.
- 1.2 Our intention in making a submission to the Scrutiny Panel is to assist the Panel's deliberations discussing and making recommendations in relation to:
- (i) **Impact & Communication.** Communicating with 30%+ of the population when there is no free newspaper and many of them do not purchase the local paper or welcome unsolicited correspondence is a significant problem in this City
 - (ii) **Trust & Rumour** Within a context of lack of information, or lack of choosing to access information it is very easy for people with a negative perspective to cause distress amongst others
 - (iii) **Collaboration & Value For Money.** There is a considerable amount of quality information and organisations currently available in the City in relation to community safety but how effective can numerous leaflets and consultations be, if older people are expected to read them all and know what is relevant at a given time
 - (iv) **Targeted Support.** City wide information may not deal with the problems experienced (or believed to be occurring) in specific localities
 - (v) **Network of older peoples organisations.** How do we ensure that they have a chance to be involved, even if they are small and do not have a constitution. This is critical if we are to make this work in neighbourhoods

- (vi) **Role of the Older Peoples Council.** Although it is true that there are a number of organisations involved in working with older people the only formally elected body across the City is the OPC. Its role within this process requires clarification

- (vii) **Relationship to the Local Area Agreement targets.** In particular
 - N14: People who feel they can influence decisions in their locality;
 - N16: Participation in regular volunteering;
 - N17 Creating an environment for a thriving third sector.

AGE CONCERN

Our mission

Our mission is to promote the well-being of all older people and to help make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience.

Principles

Values and principles underpin what we do, why we do it, and guide how we work to achieve our mission. Our underlying principles are:

- Ageism is unacceptable: we are against all forms of unfair discrimination, and challenge unfair treatment on grounds of age
- All people have the right to make decisions about their lives: we help older people to discover and exercise these rights
- People less able to help themselves should be offered support: we seek to support older people to live their lives with dignity
- Diversity is valued in all that we do: we recognise the diversity of older people and their different needs, choices, cultures and values
- It is only through working together that we can use our local, regional and national presence to the greatest effect.

Values

Our work is also guided by a set of values:

- Enabling: we enable older people to live independently and exercise choice
- Influential: we draw strength from the voices of older people, and ensure that those voices are heard
- Dynamic: we are innovative and driven by results and constantly deliver for older people.

- Caring: we are passionate about what we do and care about each individual.
- Expert: we are authoritative, trusted and quality-orientated

Corporate priorities 2007 – 2010

- Prevent poverty and maximize income in retirement
- Promote age equality and enable older people to make full contributions to our economy, society and neighbourhoods.
- Maximize healthy life expectancy and promote health, independence and wellbeing for all older people
- Achieve greater social inclusion of the most disadvantaged older people and challenge the causes of exclusion
- Achieve a step change in effectiveness and efficiency, in which a crucial element will be a greater focus on older people as customers and contributors to all that we do

Neighbourhood Care Scheme

What is the Neighbourhood Care Scheme?

The NCS is a good neighbour scheme that supports older people, people with physical disabilities and carers by recruiting local volunteers to support them in a variety of ways.

The scheme operates in nine neighbourhoods of Brighton & Hove, embracing a population of around 100,000 people.

In the four years up to March 2008, we have enabled 244 volunteers to help 312 individuals, making 11,148 visits and providing 20,357 hours of direct volunteer support.

The Neighbourhood Care Scheme is committed to the value of good neighbourliness.

