

Subject:	Ad Hoc Panel on Access to Cultural Services for Older People		
Date of Meeting:	29th September 2011		
Report of:	Strategic Director: Communities		
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Wards Affected:	All		

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 Scrutiny Committees have the ability to respond to proposals to set up Ad Hoc Panels to look into issues as raised either by Committee Members themselves, council officers or members of the public. The Panel will investigate the issue and report back findings and recommendations. A letter was received to the June Committee from Councillor Leigh Farrow requesting that the Committee undertake such an exercise in relation to the accessibility of culture to older people in the city. This report provides some scoping information to enable Committee Members to consider this request and respond.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee make a decision as to whether or not to establish an Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel to look into access to cultural provision for older people in Brighton and Hove.
- 2.2 That if the Committee decide to proceed with this Ad Hoc Panel, the authority to co-opt a member of the Older People's Council is delegated to the Chair.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 State of the city statistics

In the recently compiled State of the City report, the headlines in terms of the city's population of older people are as follows:

Although there is a comparatively small proportion of older people aged 65 or more in the city, we have a relatively high proportion of people aged 85 years or more. It's estimated 14 per cent of our population (35,900 residents) are aged 65 years or more, three per cent (6,500 residents) are aged 85 or more, and 2,400 are

aged 90 or more. 25 per cent of Rottingdean Coastal ward's population are aged 65 years or more.

20 per cent of our local areas (33 out of 164) are in the worst 20 per cent of England for income deprivation affecting older people according to the 2010 Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index. This index measures the percentage of adults aged 60 years or over living in pension guarantee households. 22 per cent (9,300) of our residents aged 60 or more experience income deprivation.

Our older people report high levels of satisfaction with their homes and local areas. 86 per cent of older people are satisfied with their home & area, slightly higher than the national average of 84 per cent.

Older people are more likely to report feeling unsafe in their neighbourhood after dark; 45 per cent of those aged 75 or more, compared to 23 per cent of all residents.

It's estimated that we have around 3,000 older people living with dementia, representing over eight per cent of the population aged 65 or more.

It's estimated that around 5,000 of our older people are suffering with depression, that's 14 per cent of the population over 65 years.

In terms of supporting independence, a high proportion of our older people who are discharged from hospital go back to their own home or into rehabilitation or intermediate care. In fact 87 per cent of our older people who are discharged from hospital are rehabilitated to live independently three months after discharge.

3.2 **Arts and cultural programmes for older people**

In general, the range of cultural programming across the city is very varied and full and much of it accessible. During the Brighton Festival weeks, there was upwards of 100 free events this year and many of them programmed at differing times in the day as well as in the evening for example. Many elements were across the city in different neighbourhoods also.

On a year round basis, there are opportunities that are available at different times of the day, in our libraries and museums for example.

More specifically, some of our organisations are developing work specifically for older people, Fabrica has recently been funded by Arts Council to develop a strand of work with older people, White Night this year will have a particular focus on older people and South East Dance is developing an older people's dance company in the city.

3.3 In general terms, access to culture is good in the city, not just for older people, and the take up of opportunities across the board is high. However, the statistics in the State of the City report could guide a useful exercise in a

targeted look at the role that culture could play in response to the trends outlined above in terms of our demographic of older people.

For example, if there is a prevalence of depression identified it might be worth exploring the role cultural organisations could play in providing inclusive volunteering opportunities, or what work is taking place in the city in dealing with dementia, or how much programming is there that takes place during the day, or work with older people to increase confidence and participation.

- 3.3 The newly elected Older People's Council has recently expressed an interest in being involved in a scrutiny panel looking at this issue and have offered their support and involvement.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 There has been consultation in the preparation of this report with senior service area officers, scrutiny officers and the Chair of Scrutiny.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications as a direct result of this scoping report, however, there may be as a result of any Ad Hoc Panel recommendations that may follow if the panel is established.

Finance Officer consulted: Michelle Herrington *Date: 5 September 2011*

5.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications as a direct result of this scoping report, however, there may be as a result of any Ad Hoc Panel recommendations that may follow if the panel is established.

Lawyer consulted: Bob Bruce, Principal Solicitor *Date: 5 September 2011*

5.3 Equalities Implications

There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report itself. The agenda proposed for the Ad Hoc Panel has equalities implications in terms of opportunities for older people. If the Panel goes ahead and there are specific recommendations, there could be positive equalities impacts as a result in terms of older people as a target group

5.4 Sustainability Implications

There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report, however, there would be sustainability implications in the development and implementation of any recommendations coming from an Ad Hoc Panel process in terms of financial sustainability.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications

There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report. Older people's fear of crime is one of the factors that would influence any subsequent Ad Hoc Panel findings however.

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications

Any risk or opportunity management implications would be explored in full in the Executive response to the Panel recommendations should it be established and report.

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications

The scope of the Ad Hoc Panel outlined above would cover both citywide provision and specific neighbourhood activity.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

None