

years ahead- north east forum on ageing

Partnership Board

Minutes of the Partnership Board Meeting held on 18 November 2008, at GONE, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Present: Pamela Denham, Ken Brown, Audrey Lax, Anne Linsley, Norman Jemison, Paul Hanson, Michelle Cadby, Jim Edwardson, Lynne Corner, Debbie Smith, Elsie Richardson, Kasia Kurowska, Neil Shashoua, Sam Tannahill, Steve Martin

Apologies for absence: Nicholas Baumfield, Alex Pirrie, Alice Thwaite, Jeff Featherstone

Jim Edwardson welcomed Paul Hanson, Strategic Director of Community Services, North Tyneside Council, to the Board.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were pre-circulated and accepted as an accurate record.

2. Matters Arising

- a. Regional Dementia Strategy Group: Years Ahead co-ordinates this group with funding from CSIP. Dr Louise Robinson, who chairs the group, has been appointed as National Older Person's Champion for the Royal College of General Practitioners. Jim Edwardson to write on behalf of the board to congratulate her on this achievement.
- b. Memorandum of Understanding between Years Ahead and Newcastle University: this was agreed by the Board at the last meeting. The suggested amendments have been made and the MoU has been signed by Paul Younger, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement at Newcastle University, Elsie Richardson, Vice-chair of Years Ahead and Jim Edwardson as Chair of the Forum.
- c. Final version of report on Kaiser Visit – this has been sent to Tesco and will be available for wider circulation when a response has been received. The Coordinator of the Association of Convenience Stores has contacted Jim Edwardson and is also planning a group visit to Kaiser Stores.

3. Developments in Social Care

ANEC had suggested that a representative from the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) should be appointed to the Board of Years Ahead. Jim Edwardson warmly welcomed Paul Hanson in this role.

Paul Hanson gave a valuable overview of ADASS, his role, and current key priorities in social care. The issue of Older People's involvement in policy development was discussed and mechanisms for consultation in North Tyneside were high-lighted. Jim Edwardson thanked Paul for his excellent presentation and commented that the Board appreciated his input and commitment to Years Ahead.

4. Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP)

Years Ahead has been approached by Julie Brown, Programme Director for Older Adults at RIEP to help identify individuals to attend a Sounding Board Event on 18th December in Newcastle. Years Ahead has agreed to send invitations to older people from Years Ahead Board and other older people's forums.

5. Years Ahead Funding

The continuing problems over liability for VAT were reported at the last Board meeting. A meeting with Years Ahead, Newcastle University and Age Concern NE Support Services is planned for early December and should resolve this issue. The majority of the VAT payable is on salary costs, which are now being met by the University as part of Years Ahead/ IAH Public Engagement activity.

6. Governance

There had been no applicants for the position of Chair of Years Ahead in response to recent advertising and direct approaches to some potential candidates. At the last Planning Group meeting, Jim Edwardson had agreed to act as Chair for a further year. Pamela Denham suggested that the Governance Working Group was reconvened to look at the nature of partnership, the aims of Years Ahead and then to seek advice on the most appropriate status for Years Ahead as a legal entity.

Norman Jemison thanked Jim Edwardson for agreeing to continue as Chair. Jim Edwardson asked Board members to continue to think of potential candidates for the position. It was decided there would be no changes to Board membership at this stage.

7. "Better Health, Fairer Health" Strategy

A list of Regional Advisory Group (RAG) members was circulated. There is extensive representation from Years Ahead on the 'Later Life' Regional

Advisory Group. Jim Edwardson is also a member of the Group (A Good Death) examining end of life issues.

Jim Edwardson questioned which of the RAGs had responsibility for public health aspects of dementia, since a letter from Stephen Singleton had indicated that this issue was being considered some time ago. The National Dementia Strategy will shortly be published and this is expected to include guidance on implementation at regional level. However, it was felt that dementia should be specifically included in the work programmes of one or more RAGs.

There are important cross-cutting issues which several RAGs are considering. The Board felt it would be useful for the chairs of RAGs, where appropriate, to attend Board meetings to talk about the group's activities. The Board also asked for a brief progress report on RAG's to be included on the agenda of future Years Ahead Board meetings. It was also suggested that minutes of the Later Life RAG might be circulated to Years Ahead Board members.

Action: LC to discuss with Debbie Smith.

8. Events

- i) **Productive Ageing and Employability Task Group** – the recommendations from this Task Group will be launched on March 27th at a conference at St James Park. The Institute for Ageing and Health have agreed to fund the event as part of the joint Years Ahead/ IAH engagement panel activity. The National Institute for Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) and Learning and Skills Council (LSC) are co-funding the event. Lynne Corner is discussing the agenda with colleagues from NIACE, LSC, Age Concern and Job Centre Plus. Full details will be circulated as soon as possible.
- ii) **Arts and Older People Task Group** – Lord Puttnam was due to attend a conference to launch the recommendations on 19 March. However, he is now unable to attend on this date but has offered to support a similar event in Newcastle in September. Lynne Corner to explore other options and to contact Marie Wilson, Head of Culture at GONE.
- iii) **“Putting the Policy Jigsaw Together”** – this was suggested as the focus of the next Annual Event (provisionally planned for April/ June 09). The Strategy Group have met to discuss this. Funding needs to be secured for the event.
- iv) **Launch Regional Research & Engagement Panel** – LC has been seconded from Years Ahead to establish the Years Ahead/IAH Panel. This is an important activity for Years Ahead and expressions of interest in joining the Panel are being sought via different approaches to determine the best methods of recruitment. A launch event will be held to publicise the Panel's activity and recruit members more widely once funding is

secured. LC asked Board members to contact her for further details on any aspect of the Panel.

- v) **Launch of Regional Dementia Strategy** – an event to promote and publicise the work of the Regional Dementia Group is provisionally planned for March /April 09. Lynne Corner and Debbie Smith to meet with Louise Robinson to finalise a date and arrangements.
- vi) **Strategic Plan** – Years Ahead is planning to hold a Strategic Away day in early 09. Potential dates will be circulated to Board members.

9. Regional Research & Engagement Panel

Jim Edwardson congratulated Lynne Corner on a successful application for part-time BEACON Fellowship funding, to work on the regional research and engagement panel for Years Ahead. BEACON is a joint initiative between Newcastle and Durham Universities to undertake public engagement.

Jim Edwardson outlined the purpose of the Research and Engagement Panel which is to engage with the public to identify key issues relevant to ageing and demographic change and to promote the active involvement of older people at all stages in the research process. He summarised early plans to recruit members of the public to the panel. The aim is to recruit a demographically and geographically representative group of people to the panel over several years. Lynne Corner asked Board members to contact her if they had any questions about the panel or wanted more information.

10. AOB

Kasia Kurowska confirmed that Albert Nugent is no longer an ANEC Member and that she now represents ANEC on the Years Ahead Board.

Action- Lynne to discuss with Kasia

12. Date of next meeting

The next Partnership Board meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th February 09 10.30 – 1pm. Venue to be confirmed.