

years ahead- north east forum on ageing

Partnership Board

**Minutes of the Partnership Board Meeting held on Friday 22 May
10.30 - 1pm at the Edwardson Building, Institute for Ageing and
Health, Newcastle**

1. Welcome and Introductions

Present:

Audrey Lax	Michelle Cadby
Audrey Pepper	Neil Shashoua
Bob Pinkerton	Norman Jemison
Debbie Smith	Paul Hanson
Dennis Edgar	Paul Watson
Elsie Richardson	Russell Taylor
Jim Edwardson	Sam Tannahill
Kasia Kurowska	Sarah Armstrong
Ken Brown	Sue Houston
Lynne Corner	

Apologies for absence:

Alex Pirrie
Anne Linsley
Pamela Denham
Steve Martin
Suzanne Martin

Jim Edwardson welcomed everyone to the meeting and as there were several people who were new to the Board, the meeting began with introductions:

- Russell Taylor - representing the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and with responsibility for assisting the development of Regional Forums
- Sue Houston, – has responsibility for DWP agenda around worklessness and later life issues at Government Office North East (GONE) and is a Years Ahead Board member.
- Paul Watson – Director of the Informatics Research Institute at Newcastle University and Director of Digital Economy Research Hub in which Years Ahead is a partner.
- Sarah Armstrong – Engagement Secretary for the Institute for Ageing and Health at Newcastle University and for DoH Regional Dementia Strategy. Sarah will also provide administrative support for Years Ahead. Jim Edwardson thanked Sam Tannahill for her support for Years Ahead.

Sue Houston had suggested that Suzanne Martin from One North East was invited to join the Years Ahead Board. The Board agreed Suzanne, who is working on the social inclusion agenda, would be a welcome addition to the Board.

Jim informed the group that Alex Pirrie is unfortunately unwell. Lynne and Jim have both been in touch with Alex and have passed on good wishes from Board members.

2. Minutes

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

3. Matters Arising

Tesco (item 2c) – the planning application had been rejected by Newcastle Council and the company is now revising the application.

Social Care (item 3) - Paul Hanson is now Chairing Programme on Health and Social Care for the Joint Improvement Partnership (JIP).

RIEP (item 4) - Julie Brown, Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership has approached Years Ahead about the possibility of bidding for funding for a project on workforce and older workers.

VAT (item5) - the issue of VAT payments on the contract with Age Concern Support Services NE has now been resolved.

Arts and Culture Task Group (item 8ii) – the recommendations from this group had been launched at an Age Concern/ Equal Arts event.

4. Feedback from Years Ahead Away Day – report from Sue Tuffin (annexe 1)

A report from Sue Tuffin who facilitated the Away day had been pre-circulated. This summarises the day and indicates future priorities for Years Ahead. Jim Edwardson highlighted the need for the Forum to identify which activities are undertaken in partnership with other organisations and which are 'stand alone' activities carried out by Years Ahead. Another Away Day in addition to the planned Board meetings - will be held in the Autumn once the governance arrangements have been reviewed. The strategic plan will be re-written in the light of the opportunities reviewed at the away day and the contents of the new Government strategy for ageing when this appears.

5. Response to Elbourne Report – progress to date and implications for Years Ahead, including governance arrangements

Russell Taylor informed the Board about the national government plans concerning the response to the Elbourne Report. The new government strategy on ageing - Age of Opportunity - will be launched shortly. Russell outlined how the structures for engagement with older people would work. The UK Advisory Forum will be co- chaired by Ministers from DWP and DH - Rosie Winterton and Phil Hope. Representatives from forums in the nine English regions and the three devolved nations will be appointed, in addition to representatives from other relevant organisations. It was intended that the representatives should be older

people, rather than representatives of organisations advocating for older people. A letter detailing the government plans for representation, including details of roles and responsibilities, will be sent shortly to the chair of each regional forum. Jim Edwardson will forward details to Board members as soon as they are received and an additional Board meeting will be convened, if possible, to discuss what our response should be.

Sue Houston then talked about activity at regional level. She was pleased that there was such an active regional forum in the NE. Her aim is to work with Years Ahead so that we have a voice on the national forum and also through the DWP in GONE. There will be a post in GONE at Team Leader level dedicated to the older people agenda. Sue's team is currently undertaking a detailed mapping exercise to understand engagement activity aimed at older people in the NE. Age Concern/ Help the Aged representatives are supporting this exercise. This will hopefully be completed by 12th June.

A regional conference organised by Help the Aged and Age Concern is being held on 24th June to let people know what work is being carried out. Jan Slade will send information from a similar event on older people's views and questions to Lynne Corner and these will be circulated with the minutes.

Jim Edwardson suggested that colleagues at Newcastle University who specialise in Informatics could support in the analysis and presentation of the large amount of data on organisations concerned with the health and wellbeing of older people.

6. The IA/ Years Ahead Research and Engagement Panel: VOICE North (annexe 2)

Briefing notes on VOICE North were pre-circulated. (Voice North is a working title and is an acronym for "Valuing Our Intellectual Capital and Experience). Lynne Corner has been piloting the feasibility of establishing a regional engagement panel. This pilot has been successful and over 500 people from across the North East have expressed interest in being part of this initiative. Another meeting will be held to outline the structure and management of VOICE North. The emphasis is on demographic change and individuals of all ages will be included – the current age range is 18 – 97. The panel consists of individuals rather than people representing organisations.

7. The Digital Economy Research Hub (annexe 2)

Paul Watson gave a brief presentation on the Digital Economy Research Hub. This is a prestigious £12 million centre of excellence in Newcastle, one of only 3 funded nationally by Research Councils UK. The Hub is interested in the wider issue of social exclusion and how the digital economy can help specific groups of people, including older people, disabled people and excluded younger people.

Years Ahead had made a very important contribution to the bid and ensured that the user perspective was emphasised throughout the process. The Hub will provide funding to Years Ahead via the engagement panel to support the involvement of older people in the project. The Board enthusiastically welcomed the project and highlighted specific examples they would be particularly keen to see the Hub focus on, including, for example, transport issues. Paul Watson encouraged all Board members to contact Lynne if they have any questions

about the Hub or potential ideas for how the Hub team might work in partnership with individuals and organisations in the NE.

8. “Changing Age”– the University of Newcastle’s Year on Ageing (programme of events tabled at the meeting)

Jim Edwardson outlined plans for ‘Changing Age’, a programme to celebrate Newcastle University’s contribution to research on ageing and to leave a lasting legacy in the region. This includes a high level summit on age related issues as recommended in the Foresight report (October 2008). These include mental health, the built environment, work, digital economy and stigmatisation. This will be a two day meeting involving government ministers and key people from regional agencies.

A meeting on ‘Design for All Ages’ is also being planned in partnership with both Newcastle and Northumbria Universities.

9. “Better Health, Fairer Health” – report on ‘Later Life’ and ‘A Good Death’ Regional Advisory Groups (annexe 3)

Ken Brown gave a brief summary of the activity of the Later Life Regional Advisory Group. The chair of the group is Professor Oliver James. The group have been looking at strategies to combat Excess Winter Deaths, including increasing the uptake of flu vaccinations and ‘winter warmth’ strategies.

The Good Death Regional Advisory Group has produced an end of life charter, which was pre-circulated to the Board. The Board endorsed the End of Life Charter.

10. Events

- i. The launch of the Regional Dementia Strategy: this will be held on Friday 26th June, Thistle Hotel, Middlesbrough. All Board Members invited - please contact Sarah Armstrong at the Years Ahead office for booking details.
- ii. The Years Ahead Annual event: “Ageing Matters: Making the Policy Connections”: this will be held on Thursday 23rd July, at The Radisson Hotel, Durham. A draft programme was pre-circulated and Lynne asked Board members to let her have comments on this before 10th June.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd September, 10.30 – 1 at the Edwardson Building, Institute for Ageing and Health, Newcastle.