

years ahead- north east forum on ageing

Partnership Board

Minutes of the Partnership Board Meeting held on 13 May 2007 at the Guildhall, Newcastle upon Tyne

Apologies for absence: Neil Shashoua, Jeff Featherstone, Anne Linsley and Caroline Burden

Present: Jim Edwardson, Ken Brown, Debbie Smith, Bob Bell, Norman Jemison, Pamela Denham, Kasia Kurowska, Alice Thwaite, Audrey Lax, Elsie Richardson, Steve Martin, Lynne Corner.

Jim Edwardson opened the meeting with a tribute to Cal Carrutthers-Watt who has sadly died. A minutes silence was held.

1. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes of the last meeting were pre-circulated.

- **Ian Philp** had visited the region on the 5th of March and attended an event at Wynard, hosted by the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP), Years Ahead and the Strategic Health Authority. Debbie Smith reported positive feedback from the event.
- **The National Dementia Strategy**

The National Dementia Strategy is due to be published in October 2008. CSIP have held several "listening and engagement" events as part of a national consultation exercise. Debbie Smith circulated a document which summarises the feedback from such events in the North-East and will also circulate details of any future events. *Years Ahead's* feedback, including specific recommendations on the immediate mapping and benchmarking of dementia services, and a focused communication programme, has been incorporated in this. A report of the External Reference Group for the strategy development, chaired by Neil Hunt, chief executive of the Alzheimer's Society, has been sent to ministers, but this document is not yet in the public domain. CSIP have funded Years Ahead to establish a Regional Dementia Strategy Group to take forward the implementation of the national strategy at regional level. Dr Louise Robinson has agreed to chair this group and Alistair Balls, chair of the Alzheimer's Society, is keen to be involved. Jim Edwardson has received a letter from Stephen Singleton expressing support for a regional initiative on dementia and the SHA is currently considering which Regional Advisory Group will have responsibility for dementia care.

- **Tesco/Kaiser**

Tesco is proposing to fund representatives from *Years Ahead* to visit the Kaiser supermarket chain in Germany who have pioneered the development of supermarkets which meet the needs of an older population. Jim Edwardson has corresponded with Graham Armitage at the Institute for Ageing and Health and stressed Years Ahead's independence. A memorandum of understanding is to be developed.

- **DC-NOISE**

Lynn Corner reported on a proposed visit from an E. U. delegation on the 17th of June 08. This European project is examining how European Regions can meet the challenges of demographic change.

2. Productive Ageing and Employability

Steve Martin from Job Centre Plus gave an excellent presentation outlining the key policies and strategies which affect employability for older people. Issues raised included what happens if people wish to continue working beyond 60/65 and where the ministerial responsibility for ageing, demographic change, and coordinating strategy for older people lies. Jim Edwardson suggested that, given the lack of signs of an imminent appointment for someone to lead in this area at national level, a regional initiative, working in partnership with key agencies and organisations such as ANEC, One North-East, Government Office North East may be appropriate. It was suggested contacting Jonathan Blaikie at Government Office and Nick Brown MP, Minister for the North-East, to establish what is happening at regional level.

3. Feedback on 'Grey Matters' conference

This was held on 24th April and included the launch of the Research Task Group's recommendations. Lynne Corner reported that there had been very positive feedback from 200 delegates from across the region who attended. Tom Wakeford presented on the 'I know/ Beacons' project at Newcastle University which will shortly be recruiting lay people to be involved in specific projects. Lynne Corner is attending a Beacons workshop and will highlight examples of Years Ahead's role in public engagement including the 'Grey Matters' conference, the establishment of the Regional Engagement Panel and the "Better health, fairer health" consultation event. Lynne to provide feedback of the key points from the workshop discussions to delegates.

ACTION: LC

4. Government 'Foresight': Jim Edwardson and Lynne Corner had met with Derek Flynn from the Foresight project. In relation to demographic change, the Institute for Ageing and Health and *Years Ahead* is well positioned to lead on a regional foresight initiative which takes general lessons and recommendations from the National foresight project and considers what these mean for our region.

5. Years Ahead's Funding

Jim Edwardson is in discussions with the University to obtain funding for a seconded post for *Years Ahead* to undertake public engagement.

The current funding from the Equalities Coalition's CADE project pays salaries but there is no funding for any other expenses incurred, such as meeting costs, events and older people representative expenses. Age Concern can not meet any additional expenses. Given the shortage of funding it was suggested that Years

Ahead adopts an approach for payment of travel expenses common amongst VCS organisations in that people can travel to meetings how they choose, but only local public transport costs will be reimbursed.

6. The Draft Strategic Plan: feedback from ANEC

A paper on the *Years Ahead* Strategic Plan which had been sent to ANEC Executive Board members had been pre-circulated. Jim Edwardson had received a positive letter from Rob Mitchell outlining the ANEC Executive Board's strong expression of support for the *Years Ahead* strategic plan. Jim Edwardson will reply to Rob Mitchell to express Years Ahead's appreciation of this response. Kasia Kurowska said that members of ANEC had suggested that a member of the Directors of Adult Social Services was on the *Years Ahead* Partnership Board and this was strongly supported. Kasia also raised the issue of the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership. LC to meet with Kasia to discuss.

ACTION: JE/LC

7. "Better health, fairer health": feedback on Regional Advisory Groups

Jim Edwardson has received a letter from Stephen Singleton on the 11th of April 08 in which he stated that he would be delighted if *Years Ahead* coordinates the regional advisory group for later life. Keith Aungiers from the Strategic Health Authority is to meet with Jim Edwardson and Lynne Corner on 5th June to discuss the implementation of the strategy and how *Years Ahead's* contribution will be resourced. Board members discussed which group might have responsibility for dementia as this is a relevant issue to several groups, including 'Later life', 'mental health' or 'early intervention'.

Pamela Denham said that the Health Task Group is currently producing a record of the task group discussions with recommendations which could be a resource when the regional advisory group for Later Life is established.

8. Evaluation of *Years Ahead*

This will be discussed at the next Planning Group meeting on 4th June.

9. *Years Ahead* Task groups

- Arts and Older People: Lord Puttnam has agreed to launch the Arts and Culture task group report on the 19th of March 09. Lynne Corner to arrange a meeting of the task group to discuss how the recommendations can be taken forward.
- Demographic Change Task Group: this report will support the launch of the Strategic Plan.
- Strategy Group:
The Sub National Review is currently out to consultation. Kasia Kurowska to send details as the proposed changes have major implications for regional policy and strategy. Kasia suggested *Years Ahead* contact Jim Darlington to arrange a meeting to discuss developments in this region.

ACTION: LC

10. Governance

A advert for chair of *Years Ahead* had been pre -circulated to Partnership Board members. Jim Edwardson suggested contacting Shelagh Marshall, chair Future Years – the Yorkshire and Humber regional forum on ageing, to chair the appointments panel. The advert will be placed on the *Years Ahead* website and circulated as widely as possible through partnership organisations and contacts. It was suggested that Elsie Richardson and Pamela Denham also sit on the appointments panel.

ACTION: LC

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Date of next meeting

The next Partnership Board meeting will be held on 23rd September 2008, 10.30 – 1pm at Government Office North East, Citygate, Newcastle upon Tyne.