

Summarised Report of the Board Meeting held on the 19th August 2011

1. Present: Yvonne Wardrop (YW) Vice Chair, Ann Crawford (ARC), John Crowter-Jones (JCJ), Margaret Coles (MC), Jean Daley (JD), Tony Langmead (TL), Gillie Newcombe (GN) Chair, Margaret Woolacott (MW). Andrea Chick (AC) taking the minutes. Carol McCormack-Hole (CMH) (Observer representing CB). Apologies were received from John Stedman (JS) Treasurer Cliff Bell (CB).
2. Minutes 29th July 2011 - Page 1 amendment: JD confirmed meeting date as 9th August. Minutes Approved.
3. Matters Arising:
 - i) Funding ideas - Not discussed as KC not able to attend. YW considered KC's document to be excellent and extremely clear.
 - i) First Stop - The funding group were given permission to proceed subject to a limit of £35 room hire at this stage. ARC will send out an invitation asking for 25 people who would be prepared to come at their own expense in view of the current funding.
 - ii) Meeting Feedback
 - a) Publicity - Minutes on the website are too detailed and need to be edited even further. TH would be producing a guideline to assist members at shows on publicising the work of SCfD and recruiting new members.
 - b) LINK AGM - There was concern about the very low number of activities that LINK had achieved over the past year given their funding level. SCfD (GN and Sally Lougher) will challenge LINK at a meeting with Jennie Stephens. GN has written to the RD&E as a critical friend following a hospital stay by a close family member. It was agreed that other members could become critical friends of their local hospital which would provide a value and service check for them. Some already do this and a similar thing has started with the DCC Care Homes.
 - iii) AGM Speakers - John Coxon of DWP is still working on a DWP speaker. TL and MC agreed to follow up the Saga and Plymouth University ideas. Basic agenda as AM: Welcome, Speaker from DWP, AGM Business. PM: Speaker from Plymouth or Saga. Some Directors felt that they did not need to retire as they had not had 3 years continuous service. AC will check the constitution and circulate a draft Nomination Form for approval.
 - iv) Annual Report – Reports received.
 - v) Policies – Equality and Diversity Policy accepted.
 - vi) Chain of Office – TL contacted a firm but too expensive. Will continue to search.
 - vii) Aide Memoire for Care Home admissions. Various suggestions on this latest version of this guide for critical friends were discussed. AC will progress the changes.
 - viii) CRB checks – Eligibility of SCfD for free checks (as occurs for other Fusion members) will be investigated.
4. The Future Direction of the Senior Council for Devon - Meeting arranged for Friday 16th September at the Isca Centre with two people invited from each local group. The Board had two approaches: Develop Plan A – with the known current resources or Plan B – with the possible future funding (including projects on have yet to deliver. GN asked what could the SCfD do in their current financial situation without any funding other than the £80,000 from DCC. First criteria to protect the staff as the SCfD could not operate without them. All staff and administration costs (postage, offices, stationery etc.) came to £65,000 pa. A great deal of what the staff do falls outside of the Fusion remit but it is still unclear as to whether funding via Fusion could be used for this. GN - important that the branches say for what they will be using their money. If they have no set plans, any excess money must be returned but the prudence of some groups should be recognised. Several ideas were put forward and discussion would continue at the 16th September meeting.
Re-evaluation of Board meetings. It was agreed to that Directors would provide their own lunch. The suggestion that members be asked to contribute to refreshment costs at Assemblies, AGMs and other events would be put to the 16th September meeting. YW - it was the responsibility of every Board member to circulate reports BEFORE the Board meeting so that they can be read, questions can be asked and then a decision made. This would automatically cut down items on the agenda. All agreed that the Board meetings per year be reduced from 12 to 10.

TH Publicity and Development Officer notes discussed. TH had posed a list of "Aims" which were agreed up to the 'Over-50s' item. The Board emphasised that "Recruiting" and "Knowing for what we stand" should be prominent. It was agreed to adopt TH's list of 'Strengths' but to amend the funding comment to 'Future funding

is uncertain'. It was confirmed that groups can have their own sub name (e.g. Tiverton Voice) as a counter to any confusion about the "Senior Council" name.

YW was congratulated on her campaign about retention of cheques after 2018 – although her input was not always recognised in the media.

GN reminded that "Recruiting" is part of the engagement contract. Various initiatives were suggested (including a presence at Devon Association of Local Councils events).

5. AOB

ii) Voluntary Sector Assembly - GN and Tina and Roger Trapani would represent SCfD. ARC and MW also attending.

iii) Driving Safer Longer. 200 drivers needed – 125 to attend workshops, 75 to complete questionnaires. The board want to go ahead in principle but funding is needed.

6. Date of future meetings - 30th September, 28th October, 25th November and 16th December 2011.