

# Disability and Carers Action Group

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 @ 11am room 7 Civic Centre

## Attendees:

Terry Swinney	<b>TS</b>	Edna Phillips	<b>EP</b>
Rosemary Keegan	<b>RK</b>		
Elaine Turner	<b>ET</b>		
Keith Ducker	<b>KD</b>		

		Actions
1	<p><b>Welcomes and Introductions:</b></p> <p>KD Welcomed all attendees to the meeting and asked all to introduce themselves.</p>	
2	<p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <p>Brenda Tilley (BT), Kailasapathy Chinnaiah (KC), Hedley Brown (HB), Barrie Andrews (BA) &amp; Peter Sommerville (PS)</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters Arising from last meeting.</b></p> <p>As the last meeting was held in January 2020 there were no actions, it was agreed that they would be agreed as far as anyone could remember.</p>	
4	<p><b>Election of Chair, Vice Chair &amp; Minute Taker:</b></p> <p>As there were only a few attendees it was decided to leave this until we can get more residents involved in the disability and carers group.</p>	
5	<p><b>Scooter Policy (Jan 23):</b></p> <p>This was discussed fully and note was made that it had not been presented to residents before becoming a live document. KD was asked to put forward to management that any policy that concerns residents should and always was as agreed by management and residents, to be brought before residents for their comments and revisions before becoming an agreed document and going live. There are many concerns with this document and residents wanted KD to put these to senior management asap.</p>	KD Done
6	<p><b>Southend Buses:</b></p> <p>There was a concern brought to the group from EP about the bus service in Southend and how dangerous it is for disabled residents when traveling on them. The buses are pulling away from stops while the passengers are still walking to their seats. It is very dangerous especially if the person has a walker or a stick and is unsteady on their feet. Some buses are also not pulling up close to the curb also some are saying that their ramps are not working so cannot use them for wheelchairs or walkers to enter the bus. KD reported that he had spoken to</p>	

	<p>both bus companies and explained the problem. He was told to ask the residents to take note of the following and report it to the company asap. Bus number (4 figure on rear of bus), Date, time and place this happens. This included none working ramps are also to be reported asap, as both companies said "The bus should not be on the road with a defect". BA said to ask for the driver's name but it was explained that this is not the thing to do and they would not tell you anyway. Just do as the companies have asked, so they can speak to the driver involved.</p>	
7	<p><b>Terms of Reference:</b></p> <p>No terms of reference available at this meeting, but KD will send them with the minutes and bring them to the next meeting so that they can be checked to see if they need updating.</p>	KD
8	<p><b>Why are we Meeting &amp; What is our Purpose Going Forward:</b></p> <p>A discussion was had on this subject and suggestions were put forward. Firstly, we meet to discuss anything that involves and helps disabled residents and carers.</p> <p>Our purpose going forward is to help both the disabled and carers in the city and to keep an eye on anything that would impact on the lives of residents. We would also be able to help SEH and the council when it comes to doing any works that would involve disabled residents and their carers.</p> <p>Over time we can add to this to do more for the disabled residents, put on events, and go to events to show what we do and can do in the future.</p> <p>We also need to encourage more residents to join us as it is for their own good that the group is here. KD will ask the federation to put out a poster (attached) to all their reps and all the notice boards in the borough for us. He will also send it to careline to be put in sheltered for residents to see.</p> <p>If you know of anyone who would like to come along whether they are disabled or a carer of a disabled person. We need to try and encourage younger people and even mothers or fathers to come along. Do not forget to tell them that they get free tea or coffee when they come along.</p>	KD Done
9	<p><b>Future Meeting Ideas:</b></p> <p>BA &amp; HB ask if we could have different organisations to attend our meeting to give advice and help on different subjects. If the situation does not change on the buses, to request their managers to attend. Request members of SEH to attend when needed, like a policy is due to be revised or a poster is being produced that will affect the disabled or carers.</p> <p>The group will be open to any ideas for guests to attend to make it interesting. TS said that he feels that the group should meet monthly now and see how it goes, but it could become a bi-monthly meeting if the interest is not there for a monthly meeting.</p>	
10	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p>BC said that he is having problems with alterations within his property. He came out of hospital after having an operation that meant he had a leg amputated. He requested a stair lift and agreed to pay for it himself and was refused due to the structure of the property. He has also asked SEH for many things to help him to stay in his home. KD explained that adaptations are down to the council's department and suggested that he rings them and asks to be assessed by an</p>	

	<p>Occupational Therapist (OT) that way he will have someone to help him with any alterations that can be done for him.</p> <p>BC said that he is also fed up with SEH phoning him continuously asking him to move from his 3-bed house to another property as it is only him living there. He feels that they are harassing him to get him to move. It was explained to him that SEH have a duty as an ALMO for the council to try and get the house for a family and large homes are urgent to acquire. They have also offered all the incentives, like moving expenses and grant if he moves, but he wishes to stay in his home that he has had for many years now.</p> <p>BA requested that he have all paperwork in large print please.</p>	<p>KD DONE</p>
<p>11</p>	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b></p> <p><b>The next meeting will be on 14<sup>th</sup> June in Room 7, first floor Civic Centre @ 11am.</b></p>	
<p>12</p>	<p><b>To be sent by:</b></p> <p>Email to all except, HB, EP, PS &amp; BA who will receive them by mail. Copy to the Federation to be put on their website.</p>	
<p>13</p>	<p><b>At all meetings you can bring anything that concerns you as a disabled resident or carer of a disabled resident.</b></p> <p><b>We welcome any concerns or ideas you have &amp; we will discuss anything that is of concern or worry to you as a disabled resident or a carer of a disabled resident.</b></p>	