

Disability and Carers Action Group Minutes

Wednesday 14th Feb 2024 @ 11am Nicholson House

	<p>Those Present:</p> <p>Hedley Brown (HB), Barrie Andrews (BA), Terry Swinney (TS), Keith Ducker (KD), Elaine Turner (ET), Brian Cook (BC), Edna Phillips (EP), Robert McAllister (RA), David McAllister (DA), Jenny Haslam (JH), Ray Marritt (RM), Theresa Salmons (TS), Shirley Griffin (SG), Allen Seth (AS), from SEH Sarah Gallagher (SG), Laila Kricha (LK), Amber Rodgers (AR), From SCC Lucie Babbington (LB).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IMPORTANT: PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME, EMAIL OR ADDRESS ON THE ATTENDANCE SHEET, SO WE CAN SPELL YOUR NAMES CORRECTLY & SEND TO THE CORRECT ADDRESS.</p>	
		Action
<p>1.</p>	<p>Apologies for Absence:</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Peter Sommerfield. Sarah Hadden, Brenda Tilley, Chris Mc Phillips.</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising from 12th July 2023:</p> <p>All agreed & Action from January. As 4 still awaiting. – 7.2, A request for a survey to go to all residents about their disability/help needed in their homes. This is in the latest Insight for resident to inform SEH. – 7.3. Aaron gas draw explained.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Election of Chair, Vice-Chair & Minute Taker:</p> <p>Still to be completed but it has been agreed that we will wait until we have visited some sheltered places before doing this, as we hope to get other residents involved. KD to stand as chair & minute producer for now. But this needs sorting very soon.</p>	Awaiting Volunteers
<p>5.</p>	<p>Lucie Babbington from Southend City Council:</p> <p>Lucie explained that she worked with groups around the city on behalf of SCC. Just a few are Elder People (over 55s) Group & Adult Learning Disabilities Group both from SAVs. Also, she has a Carers Group who meet on line. If any one is interested in the groups or wish to find out about any other activities the council put on for adults, you can contact her by email at luciebabbington@southend.gov.uk</p>	

	<p>There then followed an open question and answers session and from that we learned a lot of interesting information about what the council does for the disabled within the city. The group thank Lucie and invited her back any time she wished to attend.</p>	
6.	<p>Sarah Gallagher from SEH Resident Engagement:</p> <p>6.1 Sarah covers the west of the city and she introduced her colleague Laila Kricha who covers the east of the city. The both took many questions regarding disability issues from those attending. One concern from EP was that the Income Focus Group meetings are cancelled every time they are arranged and would like to know why this is. SG said that she will look in to this and get back with an answer.</p> <p>6.2 BA asked why when we meet, we do not have a resident engagement officers attend. Everyone thought that having one of the resident engagement officers at meetings held in sheltered is a great idea but not at the civic meetings. Residents asked if KD could invite them to future meetings, if they are available to attend.</p>	KD to arrange if available
5.	<p>Items for Future Meetings:</p> <p>5.1 For the next meeting the group requested: Stuart Long from ATF and Graham Hart Fire Manager from SHE to attend if available. Reforming of focus groups to be discussed.</p>	KD to arrange
6.	<p>Speaker's members would like for future meetings:</p> <p>6.1 Guest's who have agreed to be invited are: Sylvia Overton – Southend Carers Edna Deramchia & Chiquitta Bruce - Community Builders Stuart Long – T (Achieve, Thrive & Flourish) Graham Hart – SEH Fire Manager Bus Company Managers – still awaiting response</p>	
7.	<p>Any other Business:</p> <p>7.1 It has been requested that the Resident and Staff Focus Group be restarted but residents believe that instead of this it has been suggested that a Task & Finish group be formed as and when needed. TS said that he would rather see the S& R group reformed as that covered many things. BA said that he wanted it back because he could bring things that happen at Westwood to the meeting. Many others also wished it to be started so that they had somewhere to voice the opinions as at the moment they have not got a voice within SEH. KD was asked to put a request in that the residents wish to restart it and could it be advertised to all residents that it will be held on a date to be arranged. KD said that he will put the request in and hopefully have a reply attached to these minutes.</p> <p>7.2 KD said, we need to have a purpose and not just be meeting for the sake of meeting every month. He said that he knows that we are going around the city meeting residents and helping them get advice and pointing them in directions that the need help with, but we need to do</p>	<p>KD put request in 18/02/24</p> <p>For all to think about</p>

	<p>more than that. He would like ideas brought to the next meeting please.</p>	
7.3	<p>A lot of residents spoke about repairs that they have reported and have not been completed and some are outstanding since last September. A mail concern was the door in the communal kitchen that is falling off and is in a dangerous condition. It has been reported many times to the repairs line since September 23 and they are told each time that 'they are waiting for Houghtons who do all the carpentry work to get the time to do it'.</p> <p>KD advised that they report it again and explain how dangerous it is, get the job number, ask who will be attending to do the job and in what time it is to be completed in. if any difficulty please let him know and he will take it to the repairs group meeting on the behalf.</p> <p>He said this goes with all problems that they can not get resolved though the 0800 833 161 number.</p>	
7.4	<p>BC said that he wanted to speak to his Tenancy Services Officer (TSO) but he cannot get hold of them. KD advised that again go though the free phone number asking that the TSO make contact with him. He also said that he is waiting to move from his house to a sheltered place, but has not been told when this will happen or where he will go even though he knows that there are places empty and not being used, KD suggested that this should be taken up with his TSO. He then wanted to know why he was not offered one of the empty properties he knows about. KD explained that some of the empty properties are left for emergency accommodation. BC wanted to know what emergency warranted them to stay empty. KD explained that it could be anything like a fire or flood that puts someone out of their property so an emergency property is there for that purpose. BC then want to know about councillors and could we get them to attend our meetings? KD explained that every area has different councillors so he would have to find out who his is and speak to them. BG said that his works full time so cant be contacted. KD said to email them, BC asked how to get their email address and he was told to go to the SCC website and look for it or ring SCC switch board 01702 215000 and ask them.</p>	
7.5	<p>There were many more questions and most were answered to the resident's satisfaction, but some have been taken away and will be answered as soon as possible.</p>	SG
7.6	<p>SG & KD said that if any resident would like to join the disability Group, please speak to either of them and they will explain how to get involved. All those in attendance were asked to put the word out to others in the scheme how the meeting when, what they learnt and how they got help if they did, so that others know that the Disability and Carers Group are there for.</p>	
7.7	<p>If anyone wishes to attend other meetings, they are very welcome to do so and if getting to meeting is a problem to contact KD (details below) who can arrange to get them to meetings and back home again. So please, put the word about that residents whether they are disabled, a carer, just interested, wish to help or just attend meetings, please do so as the more we are the easier it is to get things done and to be listened to, when we have an idea or suggestion that helps both SEH or the residents.</p>	

7.8	It was suggested that we hold a couple of meeting in the summer in the evening as it stays light later and residents who cannot get to the morning meetings can come along. After a discussion it was decided that it should be June & July and the time should be 6.30pm to 8pm. That would mean that the July Civic Centre meeting would now be in one of the sheltered schemes.	
7.9	The lifts in Nicholson keep breaking down and they are out for days at a time. When residents ask why its taking so long to repair them, they are told that they are waiting for parts. Question is, why are they not holding spares for these lifts so that residents don't suffer from loss of the lifts?	This has been reported to the manager concerned
8.0	<p>Surveys:</p> <p>8.1 KD brought to the attention of those present surveys that are out at the moment that residents and staff should fill in. They are very important</p> <p>8.2 1. Government Repairs Consultation:</p> <p>There is a government consultation on repairs and there time scales that closes 5th March. www.gov.uk/government/consultations/awaabs-law-consultation-on-timescales-for-repairs-in-the-social-rented-sector/awaabs-law-consultation-on-timescales-for-repairs-in-the-social-rented-sector Go to GOV.UK type Go to GOV.UK type in the following: <u>Awaab's Law: Consultation on timescales for repairs in the social rented sector</u></p> <hr/> <p>8.3 2. Carer's Consultation Survey by Southend City Council:</p> <p>You can go on to the SCC website southend.co.uk and type in the Search Box - Carer's Consultation Survey – then scroll down about halfway to find it. There are two showing but both are the same on only they have put it on their twice so click on either one and do the survey. Completing the survey will help so many carers and also their disabled person they look after. Even if your not a carer you should still fill it is as you never know if your going to need one in the future as none of us know the future.</p> <p>8.4 Hopefully we can find more of these that need our support, so if you find one and think it would be beneficial to residents to do, please let us know. Contact as below.</p>	
9.	<p>Next meeting items:</p> <p>9.1 Follow-up on the request to restart the Resident & Staff Focus Group. Guest speakers for the future meetings.</p>	

10.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p><u>PLEASE NOTE THE LATER START TIME</u></p> <p>13th March 2024 11:30am at Trevett House, 19a Southchurch Rectory Chase, SS2 4XB</p>																					
11.	<p>Future Meeting Dates and Venues:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="256 443 1321 792"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="256 443 600 477">Civic Centre</th> <th data-bbox="600 443 1321 477">Sheltered Unit's 2024 @ the times below.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="256 477 600 510">17th January 11am R5</td> <td data-bbox="600 477 1321 510">14th February - Nicholson House, G/F Lounge 11am</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="256 510 600 544"></td> <td data-bbox="600 510 1321 544">13th March - Trevett House. 11.30am</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="256 544 600 577">10th April 11am room 3</td> <td data-bbox="600 544 1321 577">08th May –</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="256 577 600 611"></td> <td data-bbox="600 577 1321 611">19th June -</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="256 611 600 645"></td> <td data-bbox="600 611 1321 645">10th July -</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="256 645 600 678"></td> <td data-bbox="600 645 1321 678">14th Aug -</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="256 678 600 712"></td> <td data-bbox="600 678 1321 712">11th Sept -</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="256 712 600 745">9th Oct 11am room</td> <td data-bbox="600 712 1321 745">13th Nov -</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="256 745 600 792"></td> <td data-bbox="600 745 1321 792">08 Jan 25 -</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Civic Centre	Sheltered Unit's 2024 @ the times below.	17 th January 11am R5	14 th February - Nicholson House, G/F Lounge 11am		13 th March - Trevett House. 11.30am	10 th April 11am room 3	08 th May –		19 th June -		10 th July -		14 th Aug -		11 th Sept -	9 th Oct 11am room	13 th Nov -		08 Jan 25 -	
Civic Centre	Sheltered Unit's 2024 @ the times below.																					
17 th January 11am R5	14 th February - Nicholson House, G/F Lounge 11am																					
	13 th March - Trevett House. 11.30am																					
10 th April 11am room 3	08 th May –																					
	19 th June -																					
	10 th July -																					
	14 th Aug -																					
	11 th Sept -																					
9 th Oct 11am room	13 th Nov -																					
	08 Jan 25 -																					
12.	<p>A very Important Reminder:</p> <p>Please provide me with an email address if you have one, as it cost a lot to send through the post. A copy of the agenda and minutes will be available at meetings, so no worry about printing.</p>																					
13.	<p>Meeting Agenda.</p> <p>13.1 At all meetings there is a set agenda but you can bring anything that has to do with disability or a carer to the meeting. We welcome any concerns or ideas you have and will discuss anything that is of concern or worry to you as a disabled resident or carer within the city. After the meeting you will have time to bring to our attention anything that is not disability or carer related.</p>																					
14.	<p>Contact details:</p> <p>14.1 Keith Ducker on 01702 309064 or by email: kthjac@gmail.com If you require any information on the Disability & Carers Group.</p> <p>14.2 If you are having a problem that you can not solve yourself or with the assistance of SEH officers. We may be able to advise or help on your behalf.</p>																					