

Disability and Carers Action Group Minutes

Wednesday 9th April 2025 @ 11am Civic Centre

	<p>Those Present:</p> <p>Robert McAllister (RM) Chair, Hedley Brown (HB), Edna Phillips (EP), Majzoub Ali (MA), Barrie Andrews (BA), Tricia Cowdrey (TC), Keith Ducker (KD).</p>	
	<p>Previous Minutes can be downloaded and read on the following website strf.uk – click on Focus groups and Board – click Disability & Carers then scroll down to read the minutes you want.</p>	Actions
	<p>The Code of Conduct is at the end of these minutes and please read them and adhere to them.</p>	
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence:</p> <p>Terry Swinney.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>None</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a correct record.</p> <p>Matters Arriving from Previous Minutes:</p> <p>None</p>	
5.	<p>The meeting started by BM saying that he will chair the meeting with the help of EP. BM reminded all that the information promised from lowona of KTF has still not been received. EP. lowona did say because I was interested in the exercise guys, she said she'd contact me and that was January and still hasn't done it. I was interested in an exercise class for disabled people at the Southend Salvation Army. Phoned up, they said they would get back to me, that was two months ago. I've given up. So, I'm not going anywhere. MA said that he could trace the agenda in his mobile. MA. Have they been sent? How do you get yours? I got the minutes of the previous meeting. There are some corrections in it. RM. Did you not get an email? MA. I have not got an email with the agenda because normally when I get it, I print it and at least I bring a copy to here. When I got my email, there's one of the minutes and one of the agenda.</p>	

RM. That's the one of the minutes. So, you got a copy?

MA. I printed it off. I printed it off of the email. RM. That's yours. You got yours. MA. Yes, but I'm saying. What about Tricia? Have you got a copy? You got a copy as well? Sorry you got the agenda.

RM. The agenda was sent separately not attached to the minutes as it is hard to print out the agenda if it's attached and not separate from the minutes.

MA asked KD to explain what a Resident Champion is as you are a resident champion for computers.

KD. I'm the resident involvement champion for the board not anything to do with computers.

MA To KD. I would like to see a copy of your job description please.

KD said he will send MA a copy.

MA. Poor (name) used to be our block rep. They came they said we want your computer and they took it away from him. Now he's very disappointed. People in authority they should not use their authority to try to silence us. They should comply with the rules in the same way as they wanted us to comply with them. Why, can Keith answer that?

KD. (name) had a printer and a laptop because he was part of the Federation committee. When the Federation folded he was no longer part of the federation and as not being a part of the federation every single one of the federation committee had to surrender their equipment back to SEH.

TC Spoke about a group she is involved with ['strmsupport.co.uk'](http://strmsupport.co.uk) **and their website is well worth looking at.**

RM asked TC if she would talk about strm (Send the Right Message).

TC agreed to give a talk later in the year.

There then followed a discussion on computer literacy and how SEH say they will teach you if you want to learn, but they don't do that as you can get it at the library.

It then changed to a repairs problem ongoing for 15 weeks and it was mentioned that they should put in an official complaint about it. MA said it is very difficult when trying to complain as the people you are complaining to are the people in power and they have a thousand reasons to explain to you that you are wrong. They will love it if you complain as they will show you that you are wrong.

TC. Asked if we ask other disabled or carers if there is anything that they would like to bring to the groups attention if they cannot get to the meeting? TC said that she goes to another group and before she attends, she puts up on Facebook that if anyone has something for the meeting, she is willing to take it to the group on their behalf.

How do we communicate with those that cannot attend?

KD. I think that is a good idea. I will speak to our Facebook editor to see how he can get this out and get the requests from residents and also our website will advertise that anyone can send in a question for the group or request information.

Members requested that they have a benefits officer at the next meeting on the 14 May.

	<p>The whole meeting went on about different things that had nothing to do with disability or carers and RM advised that this was not a general discussion group but a disability and carers group.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct will be distributed at the next meeting.</p>	
6.	<p>Guest Speaker:</p> <p>Did not arrive.</p>	
7.	<p>Key Outcomes:</p> <p>This month there were no key outcomes.</p>	
8.	<p>Guest Speaker for 14th May at 2pm.</p> <p>This will be someone from DIAL to explain the benefits that are available.</p> <p><u>11th June.</u> Sam Smith (Team Manager) from the Adaptations & Equipment Services Team of Southend City Council will be attending.</p>	
9.	<p>Items for Future Meetings:</p> <p>Departments or organisations who have agreed to attend: Occupation Therapy SCC (June 25 Speaker) Adults and Communities Lead - jSCC Community Builders Age Concern Achieve, Thrive & Flourish Breathe Easy Everyone Health SEH Fire Manager Send the Right Message (Tricia Cowdrey) Dial (from SAVS) (May 25 Speaker)</p> <p>If you know of anyone who would be willing to attend and give us a talk on their organisation or department that could help the disabled or carers in Southend, please let us know and we will contact them on your behalf.</p>	
10.	<p>Any other Business:</p> <p>Members were asked if they would allow KD to pass on their details so that he can send the minutes and agenda out. All agreed that it would be OK. KD will send over details that Bob will need. Those present wanted the group to be opened up to any disabled or carer in the city to attend. KD will take it to Resident Engagement as they support this group.</p>	<p>KD</p> <p>KD</p>
11.	<p>Meeting Agenda.</p>	

	<p>PLEASE REMEMBER THIS IS A DISABILITY AND CARERS GROUP AND ALL MEETINGS HAVE A SET AGENDA, YOU CAN BRING ANYTHING THAT HAS TO DO WITH DISABILITY OR CARING 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.</p> <p>ANY OTHER CONCERNS, COMPLAINTS OR HELP NOT RELATED TO THE MEETING SUBJECT, MUST BE AFTER THE MEETING. YOU WILL THEN HAVE TIME TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CORRECT PERSON, ANYTHING THAT IS NOT DISABILITY OR CARER RELATED.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>14th May 2025 2pm at the Civic Centre room 7</p> <p>We hope to see many more residents joining us soon, as the response from the Big Conversation was good with many residents wishing to attend the Disability and Carers Action Group.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>Future Meeting Dates and Venues:</p> <p>All meeting will be held at the Civic Centre until the Sheltered are clear for us to return visiting.</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 emailed or posted out.</p>	
	<p>Code of Conduct:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residents are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly fashion, always respecting other residents, both in meetings and on the premises. 2. Offensive, disruptive, threatening or abusive behaviour and language including racist, sexist, disabled or homophobic inflammatory remarks shall not be permitted and will constitute a breach of reasonable behaviour. 3. Residents will be aware of the equal opportunities policies of South Essex Homes and will at no time act in a manner which is intentionally contrary to the spirit of these policies. 4. Residents wishing to speak should indicate to the Chair, and then wait to be called upon to speak. All speakers should address the Chair. The Chair's role is to make certain everyone has the opportunity to speak. Residents should be careful not to dominate the discussion. 5. Speakers should <u>stick to the subject matter in hand</u> and not stray from the point. 6. Only one person shall speak at a time and there should not be any private debates within the meeting. 	

	<p>7. Any breach of reasonable behaviour will result in a vote of no confidence being called against the offending member and the member will be asked to leave. The meeting will be stopped until that person has removed themselves from the meeting.</p>	
--	---	--