

Disability and Carers Action Group Minutes

Wednesday 14th January 2026 11am @ Civic Centre

1.	Those Present:	Actions
	<p>Robert McAllister (RM) Chair, Hedley Brown (HB), Edna Phillips (EP), Barrie Andrews (BA), Angela Burrows (AB), Keith Ducker (KD), Janet Utton (JU) Harry Few (HF)</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>Terry Swinney, Brenda Tilley & Tricia Cowdrey</p>	
3.	<p>Previous Minutes: These 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>	
4.	<p>Welcome:</p> <p>RB welcomed all those present and run through the November minutes as there was no meeting in December 25 due to the Big Conversation. All agreed that they were a true record.</p>	
5.	<p>Meeting:</p> <p>The arrange speaker could not attend due to their holiday flight being rearranged and they could not get home until late on the day of the meeting.</p> <p>RB suggested that the members attending should just have a relaxed meeting talking about anything that they wished too.</p> <p>There was a good discussion on the disability access in Southend and it was suggested that we should ask a member of the council who deals with access to attend and explain how they deal with premises who do not have the correct access to them and also take away concerns that disabled and carers have. KD to investigate and ask the department if they would send someone along. There was a comfort break at 12 noon.</p> <p>After that there was many suggestions on who we would like to attend and speak to the group and also how we can get more people to attend. The laminated leaflets on the group were there for anyone to take and hand out to places that will allow it to be displayed.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Fire manager be invited to the February meeting then the OT department of Southend Council for March with Age concern.</p> <p>Then the following should be asked if they could send anyone to talk to the group:</p>	

	<p>Seuz: (Southend waste collection company).</p> <p>Arriva, First and Stephensons: The three bus companies serving Southend.</p> <p>Carers First: The help out unpaid carers.</p> <p>Breathe Easy: They are around breathing if you have asthma or other lung problems.</p>	
6.	<p>The meeting ended at 12:50pm.</p> <p>AB said that there are supermarket trolleys being left in the corridors and lifts in Addams Elm</p>	
7.	<p>Items for Future Meetings:</p> <p>Departments or organisations who have agreed to attend:</p> <p>Occupation Therapy SCC</p> <p>Adults and Communities Lead - jSCC</p> <p>Community Builders</p> <p>Age Concern</p> <p>Achieve, Thrive & Flourish</p> <p>Breathe Easy</p> <p>Everyone Health</p> <p>SEH Fire Manager</p> <p>Send the Right Message Dial (from SAVS)</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>	
8.	<p>Date of the next meeting:</p> <p>11th February 2026 11am at the Civic Centre room 2</p>	
9.	<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>	

10.	<p>Future Meeting Dates and Venues:</p> <p>All meeting will be held at the Civic Centre on the 2nd Wednesday of the month until different venues can be arranged.</p>	
11.	<p>Dates and rooms for 2026: 11:00am until 1:00pm</p> <p>Wednesday 14th January – Committee Room 7 Wednesday 11th February – Committee Room 2 Wednesday 11th March – Committee Room 2 Wednesday 8th April – Committee Room 7 Wednesday 13th May – Committee Room 7 Wednesday 10th June – Committee Room 7 Wednesday 8th July – Committee Room 7 Wednesday 12th August – Committee Room 7 Wednesday 9th September – Committee Room 7 Wednesday 14th October – Committee Room 7 Wednesday 11th November – Committee Room 7 Wednesday 9th December – Committee Room 7</p>	