

Disability and Carers Action Group Minutes

Wednesday 13th May 2026 11am @ Civic Centre

	<p>Those Present:</p> <p>Robert McAllister Chair (RM), Hedley Brown (HB), Barrie Andrews (BA), Keith Ducker (KD), Harry Few (HF), Angela Burrows (AB), Janet Utton (JU), Sarah Gallagher (SG), Sr James Duddridge (JD).</p>	
	<p>Apologies: Terry Swinney & Edna Phillips.</p>	
1.	<p>RB welcomed all those present and run through the March minutes. All agreed that they were a true record.</p>	<p>Actions</p>
2.	<p>Guest Speaker:</p> <p>KD informed all that a member of staff from SEH Finance Department will be arriving at 11.30am, so if we could get the first part finished by then it would be good.</p> <p>The guest speaker did not arrive, so KD exited the meeting at 11.50am to telephone the department to find out why they had not attended at the agreed time. He returned to the meeting 15 minutes later and informed the group that he could not get the SEH Finance department to send anyone down to talk to the group & he will contact the manager when she returns from her holiday.</p>	<p>Email from Finance Manager below. *</p>
3.	<p>Sarah Gallagher:</p> <p>SG told the group that it is now possible to go to sheltered schemes and she suggested Stephen McAdden House (SM) as the first place, then try others. SG will produce a poster to put in the schemes to advertise that we are attending and that all are welcome to attend. There was a discussion on how the group would present the meeting when they attend any schemes and what should be on the poster. SG said she will send the poster to RM & KD to approve.</p>	<p>SG: The lounge at SM is booked out so next meeting at Nicholson house.</p>
4.	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>HB confirmed that he has now had his radiator fitted that was missing for a good few months.</p> <p>A discussion was held around the strf gazebo and how it can be used at pop-up events and where these could be. KD said that the gazebo needs the name change and he will investigate the cheapest way of doing it and report back to the group, as there is considerable amount</p>	<p>KD</p>

	<p>of work involved. KD advised that the strf.uk website has had its name changed from federation to forum and also the logo has been changed. The website is for residents to send in stories and pictures for publication. Also, the website has a vast amount of information, reports from focus groups as well as information that will help residents, like who their up-to-date Estate/Tenancy office is. There is a very large amount of easy to find information on it as well.</p> <p>KD would like residents to look through the strf.uk website and comment, point out any mistakes they find and suggestions on what they feel can be added.</p>	
5.	<p>Items for Future Meetings:</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 to see if they will attend a meeting.</p>	
5.	<p>Date of the next meeting:</p> <p>10th June 2026 11am at Nicholson House, 299 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea. SS1 2PD</p> <p>Parking is very restricted.</p>	
6.	<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 at the any other business section.</p> <p>Any other concerns, complaints or help not related to the disability or carers 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>	
7.	<p>Future Meeting Dates and Venues:</p> <p>The group will be meeting at different locations every other month. The Civic Centre room 7 or a sheltered scheme and the location can be found on the Disability & Carers page of the strf.uk website.</p>	

*	<p>KD contacted the SEH Finance Department manager and informed her that no one had attended the meeting.</p> <p>Reply from the Finance department manager:</p> <p>Please accept my sincere apologies that no one attended. I understand that Katy Brown has already been in contact to apologise and to arrange for a Housing Support Officer to attend the next meeting.</p> <p>Could you please confirm the date and time of your next meeting? We will ensure that an officer is scheduled to attend.</p> <p>After KD replied with information, it was confirmed that a Specialist Income Management Officer will be attending at 11.30.</p>	<p>KD has sent date, place & time of June meeting to Finance Dept.</p>
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