

Disability and Carers Action Group Minutes

Wednesday 13th May 2026 11am @ Civic Centre

1.	Those Present: Robert McAllister Chair (RM), Hedley Brown (HB), Barrie Andrews (BA), Keith Ducker (KD), Edna Phillips (EP), Bob Nunn (BN), Shirley Griffin & Terri Street (TS) Specialist Income Management Officer.	
2.	Apologies: Harry Few, Angela Burrows, Janet Utton & Sarah Gallagher.	
3.	Welcome RB welcomed all those present and run through the May minutes. All agreed that they were a true record.	Actions
4.	Guest Speaker: TS(Specialist Income Management Officer) started by asking if there were any questions she could answer and if there was anyone that had a personal request she would speak to them in a quiet area. HB said that could she explain that when the letter comes with the amount of rent on it, it is a lot more than the amount he has to pay and he gets worried. She said that it was the full rent as any benefits that a resident may get is impossible for them to know as they may change from year to year, so they can not show them in the letter. But you can phone SCC and ask them how much you have to pay after everything is taken in to consideration. EP said that the letter does worry a lot of people because of what it says, It says that if you don't want to pay the amount show, you can give up your place and it worries people. Can't the put something that would make it better. TS said she will take that back and make them aware of what you have said. KD said that the letter has been looked at by the Income Management Focus Group and being looked at with the suggestions from the group then presented to SCC as it is their letter and if they agree, the wording will make it more clear with also more information on it, like who to contact with SCC department number plus other information. KD will bring the revised letter to the group once it is finalised and agreed by SCC for them to see it. TS said that as it is in the hands of the IMFG she will of course leave it to them. The group were very impressed with the knowledge that TS had and that she could answer all their questions for them. TS said that if we ever need her to attend again, then just ask with 2 weeks' notice and she will be there,	
5.	Any Other Business: A discussion as to whether we would continue to meet at different places as this one was not attended well especially from the residents of Nicholson House. EP said that her place has seen the return of the bed bugs so going there is not advised. The group as a whole said that if there is a suspicion of bed bugs in a	

	<p>place, they would not attend there and they would like a check done the night before to see that it is fully clear and if not, meet at the Civic Centre.</p> <p>KD advised that the room booked would be released to others if we said we were not going to use it do to going elsewhere. EP said, then we should ask that it be kept for us just in case we need it that day. KD will ask if that can be the case and let all know.</p> <p>RM wants to know if there can be a card slightly smaller than a credit card that members can have to hand out that has our group name and contact details with a short description on the group. KD will look in to it and let him know.</p> <p>HB asked if KD could let residents have his details and KD said he will bring some of his cards to the next meeting for him.</p> <p>RM to find out if one of the councillors for the Yantlet area can attend the August meeting if we get the ok to be there.</p> <p>KD asked if we need to, would the members agree to the meeting being moved a week forward or another day If it was necessary? All asked that it should stay a Wednesday and that it <u>must</u> be the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday of the month as members have other engagements, but would from now on leave the 2nd & 3rd Wednesday morning free. KD to Change the September date to the 16th room</p> <p>KD. HF said, he was looking for the meeting at the Civic Centre, so that shows that the need for the poster to be put out for each meeting with place, date & time is important, especially if there is a place near to where we are meeting need telling. At the July meeting there is a need to agree the Disability & Carers Poster (All Are Welcome) as the title does not say who we are and the Meeting Place Poster that has nowhere to put details about where we are, dates or time. Both are included with the minutes and the agenda for July <u>Please look at both posters and make notes about things you believe need changing, removing or adding for the July meeting.</u></p>	<p>KD</p> <p>KD</p> <p>KD</p> <p>RM</p> <p>KD</p>
6.	<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</p>	
7.	<p>Date of the next meeting:</p> <p>8th July 2026 11am at Civic Centre, 1st Floor, room 7.</p>	
8.	<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>	
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.</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>	