

Disability and Carers Action Group Minutes

Wednesday 12th August 2026 11am @ The Civic Centre

12 1.	Those Present: Robert Mac Allister Chair (RM), Barrie Andrews (BA), Hedley Brown (HB) Keith Ducker (KD), Harry Few (HF), Terry Swinney (TS), Mr Daniel Cowan (DC) Leader of the Council, Charisse Chukwurah (CC) (Resident Engagement Team for East), Ella Chingano (EC) (Resident Engagement Team for West)	
2.	Apologies: Angie Burrows, Janet Utton, Edna Phillips & Brenda Tilley.	
3.	Welcome: RB welcomed all those present and run through the July minutes. All agreed that they were a true record.	Actions
4.	Actions from June: KD ran through the actions. Section 4. 1. KD still waiting for Resident Engagement to OK these. 2. Cards done and will take to meeting in September. Section 6. 1. Confusion over who was to do these so they did not get done. KD asked Sue Rickard to take responsibility for these and asked Sarah Gallagher, Amber Rodgers & Charisse Chukwurah to pass over all that they have regarding the posters to Sue. Section 7. 1. Meeting at Stephen McAdden House had to be cancelled due to bed bugs and Civic Centre was arranged. 2. RM arranged for the Council Leader to attend this meeting. Councillor Daniel Cowan attended. Section 9. 1. SG arranged for a surveyor to attend to show HF how work the system at Barrington's. 2. KD put deaf awareness on the August agenda. 3. RM passed on the two names of the suppliers of portable loop machines. 4. RM asked McDonalds about vouchers and they require the request on headed paper. KD supplied it to RM so he can recontact McDonalds.	
5.	Guest Speaker: Councillor Daniel Cowan (DC) Leader of Southend City Council. DC spoke on many subjects that effect residents across the city. He also shared with the group the funding that is allocated for things like footpaths, potholes, dropped curbs and others like waste collections and so on. He was very open to any question put to him and answered them all to the satisfaction of the group. One suggestion he came up with that would help SEH and the deaf/hard of hearing residents who attend meetings is to contact Southend NHS Equipment Services as they have them returned and can not issue the returns to residents. But maybe they can give one to us?	

	TS asked DC about the bus service in Southend as they do not come close to the curb, drop the bus or use the ramp. DC said that there is a meeting coming up that would be of an advantage to us – Southend Local Transport Plan Workshop to be held at SAVs on 18 th August, so why not go along and see what they can do to help. KD past on the information to those not present.	
6.	Meetings: The group discussed the next meeting place and agreed that September 23 rd meeting will be held at The Brambles, 20 Eastern Avenue. SS2 5NJ (on the right coming up Sutton Road towards the Jones Memorial Ground round-about. Some parking in Cromwell Road and also at Victory Sports Ground, Sutton Road.	
7.	Key Outcomes: They key outcomes for July was the design of the poster that will be put in doctors' surgeries, chemists, libraries and many more places that will allow them. The redesign of the leaflet that we will be put up in sheltered to advertise the date and time we are meeting and giving the residents around the area an invite to the meeting. August there are two. One getting to speak to the bus companies regarding disability needs and having a contact with the council leader regarding disability issues.	Both still waiting to be done
8.	Any Other Business: KD said that anyone wanting information around groups, what happening or a link to SEH information, if they have internet access they should go to strf.uk and click on A to Z and find it there. If you want information on this group like meeting places and dates then go to strf.uk/disability . If you do not have the internet, then you can contact KD or RM and they will help you out	
10.	Items for Future Meetings: 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	
11.	Date of the next meeting: 23rd September 2026 - 11am at The Brambles, 20 Eastern Avenue. SS2 5NJ The 14 th October meeting will be at the Civic Centre room 7	
12.	Future Meeting Dates and Venues: 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.	
13.	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. Any other concerns, complaints or help not related to the disability or carers subjects, 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.	