



Building Choice Releasing Community Capacity Newsletter March 2014

**YOUR
WAY...**

Issue 03

- In this week's newsletter you will find:
- A diary of events for the coming weeks
- An update on activity
- A reminder of what all partners have agreed to do
- An update from our meeting with Big Lottery on evaluation of the project

**Let's get
better
together**

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Diary of events

Open events for Older People to get involved: A conversation and a cup of tea at:

- Humberston Library Drop-In 10th March 2-5pm
- Parkway Cinema 12.30 – 2.30pm Tuesday 11th March (After The Seniors' Screening)
- Age UK Grimsby Tuesday 18th March 2-4pm
- The Older People's Well-being Collaborative are holding a "Have Your Say Day" on 18th March at Grimsby Market and Grimsby Hospital
- Waltham Library Drop-In 19th March All Day
- Any others that Partners are holding themselves:
 - Scartho Week of Action is taking place from the 15-23 March and various partners have offered to promote Ageing Better during the week
 - Bert Boyden Centre and Communities Together Diversity Day 29th March at Bert Boyden Centre
 - University of the Third Age's Open Day takes place on 17th April at the Memorial Hall in Grimsby

We are also attending other forums:

- Collaborative' Annual Development Event 20th March 10.30- 12pm
- Parish Forum 27th March 7PM Grimsby Town Hall

News Update

Some of the things partners are currently doing:

- The first publicised events have been held along with discussions been held by partners at various social clubs and exercise sessions. At Immingham Oasis Centre we were able to share information with older people attending a CAB session and with older people on a computer course too.
- An Ageing Better presentation has been given to an Eng-Age meeting by the Collaborative and it will be featured in their March magazine.
- Frontline staff in Care Plus, Care for All and Focus are talking to the older people they provide services or advice to.
- Several other organisations are talking to the older people that they work with. The Older People's Collaborative is working with St Hugh's to visit everyone who receives meals from St Hugh's.
- The Fire Service has agreed to talk to the isolated older people where they do assessments.
- We have talked to the Carers' Forum, and information has been made available through the Carers' Centre.
- The Dementia steering group has discussed the issues and has prepared a draft of how they think outstanding needs should be addressed and an article has been produced for a local dementia newsletter.
- The Bereavement Partnership is working up ideas around bereavement and surviving cancer.
- Work is being developed around the idea of the "Healthy Living Approach"
- Discussions have been held with private care providers and information has been shared so that conversations can be held in care homes. The forum has agreed to identify representation for the Partnership Board.
- The Council has issued our press release and Estuary TV has asked to come to our "Have your Say Day".
- Ageing Better has been introduced into the latest Change Champions Programme.



What older people are telling us:

It is early days in hearing from older people but so far the stories that people are telling us include

- Transport is always an issue
- There is lots going on but we don't always know about it; or have anyone to go with
- We want clubs, places to meet, but it can be daunting going by yourself
- There are exercise classes and similar things; and there are places you can play bingo - but not always a lot for people who don't want these things
- We just want social settings where we can decide what to do, have a coffee, play music, may be even dance, but we don't necessarily want organised activities - we want a dating club
- We value the social side of things, and being able to talk to each other. We want to encourage people to be good neighbours to each other.
- Support and services are often available for people who are very frail, but not for people aged, say, 50-70 who retire, become carers or are widowed, and are fit, don't consider themselves "old", and don't want to do traditional things
- We don't have an older people's forum where people can say what they think, and meet other people

What do we need to do now?

At our Partnership Meeting on 17th February, all partners agreed to do a number of things to help promote the approach and to engage with older people. We know that some partners are doing a lot around this, but there is a lot more we can be doing. We agreed that Partners would:

- discuss Ageing Better with their staff, trustees, volunteers and service users
- put Ageing Better on all meeting agendas
- promote Ageing Better using the leaflets and posters :
 - ⇒ Have you displayed the posters?
 - ⇒ Have you shared the leaflets with people? Are they on display?
 - ⇒ Have you featured Ageing Better in your newsletter?

⇒ Is Ageing Better on your website?

⇒ Have conversations with older people including through frontline staff working with people

⇒ to find out about what makes them feel isolated

⇒ and to encourage them to get involved in the project

The next meeting of the Partnership is 27th March 10.30 -12.30, and the venue is now the Fishing Heritage Centre. The Final Event to discuss the draft vision and strategy, and to agree the governance of the Partnership will be mid-April, probably between 7th and 17th. The Strategy must be signed off and submitted before the 30th April.

On March 27th we will:

1. Review what we know about needs and what older people have been telling us. Please come prepared with information on what you have been told, and if possible send it to us by the 25th March.
2. Consider what we already have in place to address these issues, and where the gaps are.
3. Discuss our strategy to address these gaps; how far our existing proposal does so, and what creative ideas we have for new approaches that might do so.
4. Agree the overall governance of the partnership and the process to appoint / elect the Board and the lead community partner.



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The Big Lottery evaluation meeting:

We met the Big Lottery on 4th March to discuss how we will evaluate our project. BIG took us through their approach and their expectations, of which more below. We took several key messages from the meeting:

1. We have lots of innovation and they are impressed with our approaches to Collaborative and to involving community champions and older people in project design and evaluation already.
2. Other Partnerships are clearly demonstrating activity to reach the most isolated older people using frontline staff, including the police and Royal Mail staff
3. The evaluation process itself must be rigorous and will be potentially onerous: There will be a lot of work to do and the Partnership will probably need help to do it. This will be a significant investment in the project. BIG want to build a body of evidence about what works, and they want to see that partnerships are using this knowledge in designing solutions.
4. BIG will be looking for a small number of areas where they can do a local impact assessment in detail. It would be really good to be involved in this.

BIG is working with ECORYS, a research organisation, who will help Partnerships with their local evaluation, and will be using some national surveys to build a base line too. They want to see a variety of methods used, from personal stories and experiences through to numbers. They want the evaluation to focus on outcomes and impacts, but also to demonstrate changes in processes and approaches between partners in how people are supported and health and social care is provided.

We have lots more information on this if anyone wants to see it, please ask. In the meantime, we have circulated some of ECORYS documents with this newsletter for anyone who is interested.