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4 November 2009

S U M M O N S

MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Extraordinary)
DATE: 12 November 2009
TIME: 6.00 p.m.
PLACE: Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Gosport
Democratic Services contact: Chris Wrein

LINDA EDWARDS
BOROUGH SOLICITOR

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Councillor Forder (Chairman)
Councillor Carr (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Beavis	Councillor Geddes
Councillor Champion	Councillor Hylands
Councillor Dickson	Councillor Mrs Searle
Councillor Mrs Forder	Councillor Miss West
Councillor Foster-Reed	Vacancy

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

(To be read from the Chair if members of the public are present)

In the event of the fire alarm (single continuous sound) being activated, please leave the room immediately.

Proceed downstairs by way of the main stairs or as directed by GBC staff, follow any of the emergency exit signs. People with disability or mobility issues please identify yourself to GBC staff who will assist in your evacuation of the building.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- If you are in a wheelchair or have difficulty in walking and require access to the Committee Room on the First Floor of the Town Hall for this meeting, assistance can be provided by Town Hall staff on request

If you require any of the services detailed above please ring the Direct Line for the Democratic Services Officer listed on the Summons (first page).

NOTE:

Please note that mobile phones should be switched off for the duration of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies, if any, for inability to attend the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members present are reminded to declare, at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter, any personal (including financial) or prejudicial interest in any item(s) being considered at this meeting.

3. REPORT ON THE CONFERENCE ON LONELINESS AND ISOLATION AMONGST GOSPORT'S OLDER PEOPLE HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2009

Report of the Borough Solicitor attached.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

REPORT TO OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 12 NOVEMBER 2009

TITLE: REPORT ON THE CONFERENCE ON LONELINESS AND ISOLATION AMONGST GOSPORT'S OLDER PEOPLE HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2009

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 1 April 2009 Council accepted the recommendation from this Committee to hold the above Conference.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The Conference was held between 9.30am and 12.30pm and was well attended.
- 2.2 Councillor Bob Forder, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed those attending and explained how the Conference had come about. He was followed by Jean Legg who gave a presentation on Gosport Voluntary Association's befriending service.
- 2.3 The Conference then broke into groups to explore the issues that have led to the increase in loneliness and isolation amongst older residents and also what could and might be done to address the issues.
- 2.4 Each groups' findings were presented to the Conference along with ideas as to how the work could be taken forward.

3. CONFERENCE FINDINGS

- 3.1 The groups identified some key areas to help address the issues:-
- A wider support network to include the places elderly people visited most frequently, including G.P.'s surgeries and possibly a market stall
 - The creation of a network of those organisations already providing services to share ideas and maintain contact with one another
 - The creation of an Older Person's Forum
 - The encouragement of intergenerational links, including students and the provision for neighbour days in school
 - More work designed to reduce the occurrence of falls

- The improvement of transport facilities for those unable to drive, or travel by bus
- Improved publicity to ensure that those who need support are reached
- Training opportunities for volunteers
- Accessing funds, identifying opportunities and ensuring there are worthwhile outcomes
- A co-ordinator for Gosport to facilitate the network, the organisation of events and address other conclusions listed here.

3.2 The Conference also agreed that it would be worthwhile to form a steering committee facilitated by the Council to explore ways in which these objectives could be furthered and fulfilled.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The conference was a great success and the Committee is asked to recommend to Council to set up a stakeholders working group to progress the matters identified at the conference and work up proposals for the Older Person's Forum.

4.2 The Committee recommend to Council that the Older Person's Stakeholders Working Group comprises 2 Borough Councillors and a representative from each of the following ;-

- Health
- County Council
- Schools
- Community (2 representatives)
- Older Person's Organisation