

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD IN INSHES CHURCH, INVERNESS ON MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 10:00**

**Present:** Ian McNamara, Chair  
Fiona Angella  
Pamela Boxx  
Isla Cuthbert  
John Furze  
David Hannah  
Ann McKay  
Donalda Mackenzie  
Brenda Nicolson  
Joan Philip  
Irene Robertson  
Evelyn Sinclair

**In attendance:** Jo Cowan, Coordinator  
Anne MacDonald, Coordinator  
Phillip Poston

**Apologies** – Brian Devlin, Bet McAllister, Lesley McDade and Donald MacLeod

**1 WELCOME/APOLOGIES**

Welcoming everyone to the meeting, the Chair was pleased to introduce Phillip Poston, Drumnadrochit Care Centre who was attending today's meeting as an observer.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were none declared.

**3 NEW MEMBERS**

The Board approved the one individual and two group applications received.

**4 NEW TRUSTEES**

There were no new applications.

**5 MINUTE OF 29 OCTOBER 2018**

The Minute of 29 October 2018 was approved.

Proposer: Isla Cuthbert  
Seconder: Joan Philip

## **6 NEW DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION**

There were no new issues to report.

## **7 SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT (SDS) UPDATE**

A query was raised in connection with Universal Credit and whether people in receipt of SDS were being adversely affected by the introduction of the system. It was suggested that the Citizens' Advice Bureau might be in a position to report on the impact of Universal Credit on SDS and other benefits. It was therefore remitted to Anne to contact the Citizens' Advice Bureau with a view to inviting one of their representatives to attend the next meeting in January 2019 to discuss the issue.

## **8 EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS**

Updating on the position, Ann was concerned that the current system was not capturing all the activity undertaken by the Trustees and its relevance to the aims of HSCN. Having discussed a number of options, the Board agreed that the Chair would include a reminder on the agenda of each meeting to ensure Trustees came prepared to report on relevant activity and the outcomes.

## **9 MEETINGS WITH EXTERNAL BODIES**

### **(a) RNIB Streetscape Meeting 29 October 2018**

The Chair and Jo gave a brief report of this meeting. Further discussions required to be held regarding the proposed street charter and development plans for Academy Street, and another meeting was to be arranged early in the new year.

### **(b) Strategic Planning Group Meeting 31 October 2018**

The Chair had attended this meeting along with Donald who, in his capacity as carers' representative, had sought clarification regarding the funding allocated by Scottish Government to support carers and how this money (£840,000) was to be used. The Chair advised that he was preparing a report on this issue for publication in the Winter newsletter.

## **10 REPORTS**

### **(a) Coordinators' Report**

Jo and Anne gave a verbal report of their activities detailing the range of meetings and events they had attended as well as the ongoing older people's get togethers. Jo was aiming to arrange a joint event with Age Scotland in Skye and Lochalsh in March 2019. With the Board's agreement she would seek funding to assist with the costs of the event. She had now produced a report for the "Speaking Up for Our Age" project which would be circulated with the Winter edition of the newsletter. She indicated that she might undertake some further research into the history of HSCN.

Referring to the older people's get togethers Anne noted that they were providing some very useful feedback on services and also highlighting issues, for example, isolation and loneliness and how to combat this. There was also a lack of knowledge of the range of services that could be provided and more information needed to be made available to raise awareness of, and enable people to access the care they required. Anne also spoke about her meeting with

second year Culloden Academy pupils under the auspices of the Youth Philosophy Initiative when she had taken the opportunity to tell them about HSCN and its work.

**(b) Membership and Communication**

The Board noted the minute of meeting of the Communications/Membership and Data Protection Sub Group held on 22 November 2018.

- *Annual Conference 2019:* arrangements were well in hand, the programme was being developed around age friendly communities and the dementia strategy.
- *Newsletter:* the Winter edition had been drafted and would shortly be ready for publication.
- *Website:* there was some updating to be done.

**(c) Black Isle Cares (BIC) Update**

There was nothing to report at this time.

**(d) Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA)**

Jo reported on recent SOPA activity and further events planned for 2019, noting in particular that SOPA would be undertaking a consultation to feed into the development of a national framework for older people. It was agreed to put information received from SOPA on the HSCN website.

Commenting on the number of organisations for older people within the Third Sector, David felt there was a need for a more coordinated approach at Government level to avoid duplication of work. He also referred to people employed by Third Sector organisations and stressed the importance of ensuring that their employee rights were protected.

## **11 TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Board noted the circulated accounts for October 2018. Evelyn advised she was awaiting confirmation of the date of a meeting with the potential book keeper so that the necessary discussions could take place.

## **12 CORRESPONDENCE**

**(a) Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI) - Funding**

There were circulated for information copies of the write ups of the Highland Third Sector consultation meetings and roadshow events which had been held across Highland. These reports had been fed into NHS Highland's Third Sector commissioning process.

## **13 AOCB**

**(a) Meeting with Chief Executive of The Highland Council**

The Chair confirmed that a meeting with the new Chief Executive of The Highland Council had been arranged for 18 December 2018 which he and several of the Trustees would attend. While the main topic would be adult social care funding, the Chair would take the opportunity to raise other issues as well such as care homes, community planning partnerships and outcome stars, and to clarify HSCN's role.

**(b) Winter Resilience**

David referred to a recent meeting held in Dornoch which had discussed this issue and the services available to help people in the event of emergencies, for example power cuts, during the winter months. It was agreed to include a list of emergency services telephone numbers in the Winter newsletter.

**(c) Adults with Incapacity**

An issue was raised regarding a resident of a care home who had arranged for family members to have Power of Attorney on her behalf but who had been deemed to have capacity by a statutory authority. Acknowledging that an individual's capacity could fluctuate, the Board felt that the best course of action in these circumstances would be for the person to get advice from an independent advocate.

**14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 29 January 2019 at 10:00 in Inshes Church.

**The meeting closed at 11:55**