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## Report to Annual General Meeting 27th March 2014

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### Report of Activities from April 2013 to March 2014.

*Report prepared by Christine Boxall, Harrogate and Ripon CVS*

#### Key Successes

- Representing the views of older people in Harrogate District to Health Providers, Social Care Providers, Bus Companies and other Forums throughout the District.
- Ensuring older people have their say on things that matter to them.
- Information events, including fire brigade, police, trading standards and winter warmth.
- An easy to access website about the forum's activities.
- Social activities including trips and lunches.
- Expansion into Ripon and the Dales.
- A Growing membership.

Members of the management committee and speakers at last year's AGM



## 1. Representing the views of older people in Harrogate District

**Committee members:** Ann Hill, Anthony Kerr, Michael Ellenor, John Dorman, Susan Hobbs, Jane Malster, Brenda Dixon (part), Joan Johnson (part), Sylvia Wittman (part), Christine Schofield (part).

Members of the Management Committee currently represent the Forum on the following groups:

- North Yorkshire Forum for Older People: *Anthony Kerr, Ann Hill, Susan Hobbs*
- North Yorkshire Older People's Partnership Board: *Brenda Dixon (part), Ann Hill*
- Health Watch: Board member *Ann Hill,*
- Harrogate Hospital Trust: *Michael Ellenor, John Dorman, Susan Hobbs, Ann Hill, Anthony Kerr*
- Harrogate Borough Council Housing Forum: *Susan Hobbs, Michael Ellenor*

Members are also involved in other groups, not specifically as Forum representatives and raise the Forum's concerns where appropriate: For example Anthony Kerr is part of a Patient Participation Group in a local GP surgery, Healthwatch Volunteer Scheme and is a volunteer with Harrogate Supporting Older People.

## 2. Ensuring older people have their say on things that matter to them

Members of the Forum have been involved in a number of public and Forum only consultations:

- Making difficult decisions in Adult Social Care - a North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) public consultation
- Prevention Services - Forum members only Focus Group facilitated by NYCC
- Domiciliary Care NYCC public consultation
- Community Transport Focus Group facilitated by Over 50s Forum members
- Access to Health Care Focus Group, facilitated by Over 50s Forum members and attended by representatives of the Local Clinical Commissioning Group and Health Watch

- Three Forum members have accepted an invitation from Harrogate Hospital Trust to be involved in Patient Led Assessments (PLACE)

The Forum has continued to make local connections and increasingly service providers are contacting the forum directly.

### 3. Information events

The Forum has held bi- monthly information meetings on the following subjects:



- The Changing responsibility for buying the District's Healthcare and information about Healthwatch the new consumer champion for Health and Social Care - presentation by Healthwatch
- Keeping well and warm in the winter - presentation by Chief Executive of Age UK North Yorkshire.
- Safety and security in the home - presentations from safer Neighbour Team member, Harrogate Police, Community Safety Officer from Ripon Fire Station.
- Legal affairs; Wills, Probate, Enduring Power of Attorney and paying for care - presentation by Berwins Solicitors.
- Door Step Crime - presentation by Trading Standards Officer from North Yorkshire County Council.
- Services and social activities for older people - presentation by Chief Executive Supporting Older People.
- The role of the Older People's Champion at Harrogate Hospital.



### 4. An easy to access website



A new website was launched at the November Forum Meeting.

[www.hgdover50sforum.org.uk](http://www.hgdover50sforum.org.uk)

The website designed by committee member Jane Malster is easy to navigate and has information on the Forum and local events as well as sections on finance, health, travel, care, aids to daily living and social groups.

## 5. Social Activities

It's been a busy year socially with:

- Majestic Hotel Christmas Dinner
- White Hart Saturday lunch
- Trip to Helmsely Walled Gardens
- Coffee mornings
- Ascot House Saturday lunch
- Trip to Burton Agnes Hall



## 6. Expansion into Ripon

Members of the Forum Management Committee were successful with a bid to the Harrogate Borough Council's Community chest so that the Forum could begin to expand out of its Harrogate & Knaresborough base.

A widely publicised open event held in Ripon in January, attracted 23 people. The Guest speaker, a Senior Partner from Berlins Solicitors, covered a number of legal matters. The second part of the event was designed to capture issues that were important to older people in Ripon and to make contact with anyone interested in joining the Forum or acting as a Ripon Link.



## 7. A growing membership



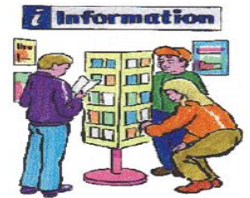
The number of people recorded on the Forum database has increased from 105 to 130 and Forum events are well attended.

## 8. Communication



The Forum communicates by a variety of methods including:

- Notes from each Forum meeting are put into the form of an accessible newsletter which is sent out to everyone currently on the member's database.
- Information about meetings is always in the local paper club section.
- All of the Harrogate District Libraries display information about Forum events.
- A number of local Parish Clerks display posters advertising events and include information in their newsletters.
- A number of local churches have helped to advertise events.
- Posters in local shops.
- Harrogate District Council has helped disseminate information to tenants living in social housing through the Tenants newsletter.
- Harrogate and Area CVS maintain an email information link with organisations working to support older people who receive information about Forum events for dissemination to Older People.
- Forum Website



## 9. Future shape of the Forum

North Yorkshire Forum for Older People provided funding to Harrogate and Area CVS to set up and support a Harrogate Voice for Older People for two and a half years; the funding ceases on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.

The Forum will continue in its present format, many of the tasks required for its continued operation having been shared amongst existing committee members. In the long run more volunteers will be needed to take on or share tasks.



The Forum is hoping to expand its constituency by continuing to engage with organisations in the District who work with Older People and has a full programme of activities and meetings planned for the coming year.

## 10 Ideas/Suggestions



If any members have any suggestions about activities, or issues they would like the Forum to be involved with please let the Forum know.

