
Notes from the Forum meeting 16 May 2013 held from 2-4 pm at St Peters, Harrogate

Ann Hill welcomed the group and it was good to see so many familiar faces regularly attending meetings of the Forum.

Report back from the Annual General Meeting

Ann said the AGM agreed the new constitution which established the Forum. The underpinning principles of the constitution are that older people:

- Have a positive contribution to make to community life;
- Are recognised and valued for their achievements and responsibilities;
- Have a voice and seek to use this to influence the policies and services that affect them.

The newly elected members of the management committee introduced themselves and Ann confirmed that she had been elected Chair at the first management committee meeting.

Health Watch

We were joined by David Ita, Partnership Co-ordinator from Health Watch who gave an informative presentation on Health Watch. He explained that Health Watch are a new consumer champion for the public, patients, health and social care users, carers and their families. If you have a complaint about your GP, Dentist or Care Home you can contact Health Watch to report it and they feedback to commissioners and service providers on your behalf.

North Bank Forum (NBF) have been awarded the contract to support the development of Healthwatch North Yorkshire. Clover Leaf Advocacy Services have been awarded the contract to support individuals through the NHS complaints process and help them to have their concerns heard.

Local Healthwatch will have 3 key functions:

1. Influencing - helping to shape the planning of health and social care services
2. Signposting - helping people to access and make choices about their health and social care
3. Advisory - supporting individuals to make complaints about health care

Local Healthwatch will take evidence built on consumers' views and experience and use it to help shape and improve local services. They will then pass on information and recommendations to Healthwatch England and the Care Quality Commission.

NBF are setting up an Executive Board who will have representation on North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board. They would like to recruit volunteer Health Watchers who will be trained up to gather views of the public, become assessors and provide feedback. Members were invited to fill in a form and sign up if they wished to become Health Watchers.

There will be drop-in's at libraries to inform the public about the service and Harrogate Library will have their drop-in on 6th June.

For further information call 01904 621631 or view the website www.healthwatchnorthyorkshire.co.uk

Forthcoming events

An events list was distributed to everyone with the forthcoming meetings, coffee mornings and afternoon teas around the district.

Harrogate: Coffee morning 1st Monday of each month 10.30 - 12 am in the Bramham Suite at the Old Swan Hotel, Swan Road, HG1 2SR

Knaresborough: Afternoon tea 3rd Monday of each month 2.30 - 4 pm in the lounge of Best Western Dower House, Bond End, HG5 9AL

Future meetings have been booked for the Forum meetings at St Peters Church from 2- 4pm on 18th July, September (date to be confirmed) and 21st November 2013.

Outing to Helmsley Walled Garden

Members were invited to attend a trip to the Helmsley Walled Garden on 2nd August (approximate price £15) and requested to leave their contact details if they wished to sign up.

For more information, please contact Christine Boxall at Harrogate & District Over 50s Forum on 01423 813094 or carerstimeoff@harrogatecvs.org.uk

Next Forum Meeting

The next Forum meeting will take place on Thursday 18th July 2013, from 2-4pm at St Peters Church.