

Area North Committee – 19th December 2007

10. Update on the Active Living Project in Area North

Lead Officer: *Emily Ruthven, Age Concern*
 Project Officer: *Estelle Casey: Estelle.chant@ageconcernsomerset.org.uk*

Purpose of the Report

To update the Area North Committee on the support offered to older people in Area North from the current Active Living programme, managed by Age Concern, on behalf of Somerset County Council and Primary Care Trust.

Members may wish to note that as agreed at the November meeting, arrangements are in hand to provide a future opportunity for a broader consideration of services supporting older people in Area North. An update on this will be provided verbally at the meeting.

Recommendation

Members are invited to comment upon and note the contents of the report.

Background

A report on the work of Age Concern Somerset, working in partnership with Somerset County Council and the local Primary Care Trust (known as the Partnership for Older People Project or POPP) was given to Members in June 2007. At that time, the scheme had another six months to run and it was agreed to give Members an update on progress at the end of 2007.

The two-year pilot project draws to a close in April 2008 and it is not possible at this stage to give a reliable evaluation of its success. Baseline data was collated by the University Kent at the beginning of the work and the final results are expected in October 2008. The following report, therefore, is simply an update of work so far rather than an accurate evaluation of the project's success.

Update since last report

Langport Living:

Following the success of the first event held at All Saints Hall in October, three further monthly sessions have been organised in conjunction with the WRVS Lunch Club. As well as offering the opportunity to socialise and receive community information and advice from Somerset Direct, there will be different activities on offer at each session with a taster class in Tai Chi being available at the first one. A group of local volunteers have put in a grant application to enable them to continue the lunch clubs for another year. This will be considered by the Board on 13th December.

Venue: All Saints Church Hall, North Street, Langport
 Dates: 22/11/07, 13/12/07, 24/01/08
 Time: 1.30pm-3pm
 Cost: Small charge for refreshments, possibly for some optional activities
 Contact: Anita Emery on (01458) 251222

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Discussions are underway with Langport Age Concern Mini Day Centre (based at St Gilda's Church) and the Disability Forum for them to benefit from Active Living support. A 12 week course of Tai Chi ran at Great Bow Yard since September, was organised in conjunction with Active Lifestyles and Sport England. As noted above, a taster session was run as part of the Langport Living event in November.

Future plans for the remaining programme (to March 08)

Norton sub Hamdon - The Methodist Live at Home Scheme, which currently runs lunch clubs and a day care service, has applied for funding through POPP to extend its services into the village hall to include the wider community. This will start in January 2008.

South Petherton - Although still in the exploratory stage, it is hoped to work with the Pitway Sheltered Housing complex to expand the activities there, offering them to a wider circle.

There is still some money available for grants. Central funding will cease in April, but SCC and the PCT are committed to the work started, having spent a considerable amount of time and effort thus far. Small grants will continue to be made to existing groups.

Members are asked to note that a future report to Area North Committee will provide a broader opportunity to review and discuss services for older people available in Area North, and to identify any future improvements.

Financial Implications

None from this report.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

The Active Living programme for older people complements the South Somerset Active Communities programme, and taken together these programmes address the following corporate objectives:

9. Identify and address the particular issues affecting rural areas
11. Work in partnership to improve the health prospects for all

Other Implications

The support offered by the Active Living programme, addresses:

- Somerset LAA – Outcome 6 – to prevent dependency, promote social participation, and offer greater choice and control for older people.
- Area North Development Plan – local priority 6 – support communities to maintain and develop facilities and activities

Background Papers: *Report to Area North Committee June 2007*