

Ageing Well – Scrutiny Working Group – December 2013

Main recommendation to the Cabinet

Mid Devon District Council to develop a corporate strategy with an action plan covering the next 25-30 years. This will need to be factored into the medium term financial and corporate plan. The strategy needs to identify what the Council is currently doing to support the elderly (e.g. assisted bin collections) but most importantly how services will plan for the future to meet the increase in demand given the rising numbers of people in Mid Devon over 65. The strategy must go for consultation before approval which should also include Towns and Parishes.

Additional recommendations

- a) Assign a specific lead officer who needs to work closely with Devon County Council and provide a lobbying mechanism. Suggest that this is somebody based within the Community Development Team. The Grants and Funding Officer could assist in getting organisations to apply for schemes.
- b) Devon County Council Commissioning Manager spoke about a greater emphasis on local communities taking responsibility. Mid Devon District Council should promote the community hub currently running in Newton St Cyres and highlight this as a model for best practice through Parish Matters.
- c) Issue guidance/protocol to the parishes on identifying signs of vulnerability in adults initially through Parish Matters.
- d) Raise the issue at the Devon Districts Forum through the Leader and ask what are the other districts are doing.
- e) Ascertain how many and what voluntary groups are out there and link in with the Devon County Council register.
- f) Consider setting up a garden share scheme and include as part of the strategy.
- g) Consider setting up a register of trusted tradesmen or link in with that already provided by Age UK and proactively promote this.
- h) Consider using the Pannier Market as a community hub and liaise with Involve over its operation.

(These recommendations were considered at a Cabinet Meeting on 9 January 2014 and their response is attached).

Cabinet Meeting – 9 January 2014

Extract from the minutes.....

93 Scrutiny Committee – 9 December 2013. Arising from consideration of a report of the Ageing Well Working Group, the Scrutiny Committee had recommended to the Cabinet that the following be approved:

a) The recommendations as listed in report be approved with the addition of the following: The Council should give a high priority to widening doorways when building 'homes for life'; and;

b) The last sentence in recommendation (a) be amended to read 'The good work of the Grants and Funding Officer in assisting external charities and organisations to receive funding is acknowledged

Discussion took place regarding a corporate strategy with an action plan covering the next 25 to 30 years. It was felt that a plan of this length was too long and therefore it was:

RESOLVED that the Head of Communities and Governance be requested to develop the recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee into a 5 year Older Persons Strategy.

(Proposed by the Chairman)