

# How Hyndburn Works

## Hyndburn Over 50s Forum

Quick Guide 4a

### BACKGROUND

The Over 50s Forum was initiated in partnership between Hyndburn Community Network, Age Concern Lancashire and Age Concern Hyndburn.

'older people in Lancashire have said they want a clear, simple and robust way of having their voice heard, being involved and influencing decision making' – Strategy for an Ageing Population, the Lancashire Partnership

### AIM

The Hyndburn Over 50s Forum is where older people are empowered to live their lives in the way they choose and where their skills and expertise are valued. The Over 50s Forum is a group of people with a desire to improve services for the over 50s in Hyndburn. These volunteers are willing to work together and use their influence to stand up for the interests of the over 50s.

It also aims to promote good relations, the values which underline equal treatment for older people and which contribute to the fight against discrimination and seeks to eradicate the stereotypical views some people have of the older generation.

### PURPOSE

The Forum will:

1. Represent the Over 50s on the Local Strategic Partnership Assembly Board and feed into the strategic decision-making processes.
2. Assist Lancashire County Council Social Services shape current and future services for older people.
3. ***Engage with Lancashire County Council Social Services service reviews and tendering processes.***
4. Provide feedback on the process of involvement with social services and the receipt of services.
5. Help prepare an older people's charter. (Social Services)
6. Contribute towards the development of joint strategies (Social Services)
7. ***Set up a formal structure to influence services in Hyndburn.***
8. ***Give older people a voice to advise and inform service commissioners and providers.***
9. ***Develop consultative processes within local communities.***
10. ***Develop mechanisms to obtain feedback on issues that concerns the forum.***
11. ***Undertake appropriate training to develop and facilitate meetings and articulate information.***
12. ***Share information, ideas and good practice.***
13. ***Make every effort to engage with hard to reach groups.***

NOTE: Those in bold and italic are the objectives in the Service Level Agreement with LCC.

## **Governance**

The Over 50s Forum has a Terms of Reference as its governing document and a Service Level Agreement with Lancashire County Council.

## **Progress Report**

### ***Meetings***

During the current financial year the Forum will hold seven business meetings.

***Agenda items have included:*** LCC Single Assessment Process, HBC Housing Strategy, Hyndburn Age Concern Active Ageing Project, Sport and Physical Alliance Activity - Older People's Fitness, Lancashire VCFS Consortium Older Peoples Specialist Hub, Hyndburn Leisure Passport, Hyndburn Homewise services and Affordable Warmth, transport in and around Hyndburn using public and private transport, access to public, retail and commercial premises in Hyndburn, parking including disabled parking and promotional activity and fundraising for the Forum activities.

### ***Events***

On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2007 the Forum held the 'Age Awareness – Hyndburn Improving with Age' event. This was a one day event where attendees could visit community and faith stalls plus have an opportunity to get information from voluntary and public sector agencies.

Speakers included Geraldine Moore, Age Concern Lancashire, David Halpin, Better Government for Older People, Lancashire Police, Lancashire County Council Trading Standards plus local community champions.

In the afternoon eight 'Ambassador Awards' were presented to some of the tireless and committed over 50s volunteers that give so much of their time to the third sector in Hyndburn.

There were several demonstrations including armchair exercises, Arabic dancing, yoga, line dancing and drama which were held to give attendees an opportunity to get involved in, or find out more, about some of the physical activities available for the over 50s.

### ***Representation***

Eddie Neville (Chairperson) represents the Forum at Lancashire level including Age Concern Lancashire Chair's Forum and on the East Lancs Older People's Partnership Board.

Joan Pilkington (ex chairperson) represents the Over 50s Forum on Hyndburn Local Strategic Partnership Assembly Board (LSP).

Tom Parsons represents the Over 50s Forum on the Health and Older Peoples block of the LSP.

Alan Davis (Vice Chairperson) and Arthur Bateman represent the Over 50s Forum on Hyndburn Better Government for Older People (BGOP) and at Lancashire BGOP.

Joan Pilkington and Lesley Jackson attended the Hyndburn Community Safety Partnership so are able to communicate information to and from the Forum and the Partnership.

The Over 50s Forum has links with Help the Aged at regional level.

John Davies is taking part in the Single Assessment Process pilot project.

### ***Attendees***

CC Dorothy Westell tends the Hyndburn Over 50s Forum in her role as LCC's Champion for Older People.

Following the September 2007 meeting the Forum wrote to HBC and the Cabinet has now appointed Cllr Lynn Wilson as the Older Person's Champion for Hyndburn.  
Cllr Malcolm Pritchard has attended a meeting as the Hyndburn Disabled Persons Champion.  
Cllr John Broadley attends meetings representing Hyndburn Constituency Labour Group.  
Access Lancashire has also sent a representative to a meeting.  
LCC and HBC officers are invited to attend as and when appropriate to the Agenda items.

### ***Publicity***

There have been eight press releases and one photo call issued this financial year.  
Posters have been circulated throughout the voluntary, community and faith sector to promote the forum  
The Over 50s Forum received funding from the Lancashire Lease of Life Fund to produce a publicity leaflet.  
The Forum would like to produce a publicity banner and is in the process of trying to secure funding.  
The Forum has also agreed that it would like to produce a regular newsletter if funding can be secured.

### ***Consultations***

The Over 50s Forum has taken part in the following consultations:

HBC – Community Cohesion Strategy  
HBC – Equality Strategy  
HBC - Housing Strategy  
HBC – Parks and Open Spaces REAP survey  
HBC – Sustainable Community Strategy  
LCC – Changes to social care for adults  
LCC – Strategy for an Ageing Population  
LP – Ambition Lancashire

### ***In Progress***

1. Age Concern England Bright Ideas Grant – mapping the activities available in Hyndburn that are provided at community centres and faith buildings and by third sector organisations. Producing the directory. To be completed by end April.
2. Campaigning for disabled parking at the front of the HV&CRC (Old St James School).
3. Campaigning for better parking in Hyndburn generally and especially for disabled people.
4. Taxi driver training course – presentation at March meeting by Accrington & Rossendale College on what the current course entails.
5. Getting a representative on the taxi liaison group.
6. Securing funding for banner, newsletter and other activities.
7. Securing a seat on the Lancashire Older Peoples Assembly.
8. Securing representation on the Older People's sub group of the Older People and Health block of the LSP.

### ***Future Topics for Agenda (not standard items) or workshops***

- Health – social prescribing, social networks and activities including the mapping exercise
- Signing up to the Hyndburn Community Cohesion Strategy and contributing to the action plan.
- A Hyndburn Strategy for an Ageing Population
- Financial Security – income and work.
- Accommodation, safety and care.
- Making a positive contribution.

- Shape current and future care services for older people (similar to Chorley)
- How to engage with hard to reach groups
- Older People's Charter – where is this up to