**Speak Up For Your Age—Thurrock**

**"Nothing about us, without us"**

**Speak Up For Your Age – Thurrock**

**Minutes of the meeting held on**

**24th April 2018, at the Beehive, Grays**

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| **Present:**Gerry Calder – Co-Chair – TOFF/Future EastLes Billingham – Co-Chair – Thurrock CouncilKaren Haltham – Thurrock Coalition (minutes)Eve Dymond – TOFF (B.U.G.)Glynis Pettit – IndividualJohn Pettit - IndividualJohn Guest - TOFFJoyce Guest - TOFFChris Reid – TOFFRobert Lyth - TOFFBabs Ford – TOFFAlf Ford – TOFFNatalie Bettany – Age UK EssexNeil Woodbridge – TransVol Director  |

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| **Key:** TOFF – Thurrock Over Fifties ForumBUG – Bus Users GroupU3A – University of the 3rd AgeCariads – Carers Information & Advice Service SCOOT – Stanford-le-Hope Older Peoples ClubFE – Future East (The Regional Forum on Ageing)EOPPG – Essex Older Peoples Partnership BoardEPUT – Essex Partnership University TrustTAA - Thurrock Asian AssociationTDN – Thurrock Diversity NetworkCAB – Citizens Advice BureauACT – Age Concern Thurrock HWT – Healthwatch ThurrockHWWB – Health & Wellbeing BoardNEA - National Energy ActionECO - Energy Company Obligation |

**Apologies:**Ian Evans – Thurrock CoalitionBrian D’Arcy – TOFF |
| **Item No.** | **Subject** | **By** |
| **1**. | **Welcome & Introductions**Gerry thanked everyone for attending the meeting today. Introductions were made. |  |
| **2.** | **Minutes of Last Meeting** The minutes were read and agreed as a true record.Proposed by: John GuestSeconded by: Chris Reid |  |
| **3**. | **Matters Arising:****Item 3 –Matters Arising**–Careline – anyone who does not meet the criteria for a FREE service can be individually assessed. Contact Adult Social Care or go via Housing if a Council tenant to request an assessment. |  |
| **4.** | **UPDATES****Thurrock Over Fifties Forum (TOFF)** – Gerry Calder* Still negotiating bid for funding
* Bid put in for Smart Meters
* No confirmed date for Annual Conference, will possibly be week commencing 1st October in line with National Older Peoples week
* Change of name for Older Peoples Parliament to Speak up for your Age – Thurrock with a strap line ‘Nothing about us without us’, this will be implemented by the next meeting.
* TOFFs offered donation from CQC (Care Quality Commission)
* Eve suggested TOFFs need to say the meetings are free and parking is free, people may be backing off as free not stated, the Older Peoples’ Parliament flyers do state free. Publicity is very difficult as local advertisements are very expensive and there is only a small budget, there is small amount set aside for travel expenses, i.e. taxi fares for those who cannot manage public transport. Eve also stated people find it hard to get to meetings especially in winter. It was suggested at the last meeting that meetings could take place around Thurrock but the group did not want this. Les suggested maybe subsidising travel expenses for those who need it. Maybe look at creative ways of attracting new people in the week of the Older Peoples’ conference in October 2018.
* Smart Meters – Age UK are concerned regarding older people falling into fuel poverty, if paying more than 10% or income on fuel then classed as in “fuel poverty”. There are training workshops for teaching older people how to use Smart Meters. Smart meters cannot be fitted in all flats
* Would an article in the local press be a cheaper way of advertising? Glynis stated that her church have had a number of articles in the local paper free of charge.

**Thurrock Council**1. New Domiciliary Care from April 2018 after 3 out of 5 Care Providers’ contracted handed back the service to the Council. Thurrock Council have now procured a new set of providers. The transition will take 3 – 6 months. There should be continuity of carers and this seems to be going well so far, relative stress free and should stabilise. The number to call for all Adult Social Care enquiries is:

**THURROCK FIRST – 01375 511000**1. **Election Time**  - There are 15 seats up for election on 3rd May 2018 and Les encouraged people to vote,

Volatility of Thurrock, last time:19 Conservative16 Independent14 LabourUKIP had a strong vote last time.Les stated every seat in Thurrock is very close and could potentially change the lead/balance. There was one seat in South Ockendon that was neck and neck after re-count and a name was picked out of a hat! This is indicative of how things are at present and that it why it is so important people use their vote.1. Thurrock this year have announced a balanced budget for the next 4 years. Have both balanced and been able to put money into reserves. The Head of Finance and team have made good investments which now gives a great deal of financial security. This makes Thurrock more secure than most Local Authorities across the Country.

**Thurrock Coalition**Thurrock Council made a request for Thurrock Coalition to plan, facilitate, inform and assist in the development of Preparing for Adulthood Strategy, via a series of Engagement events and initiatives.**Thurrock Diversity Network Meetings and Events:**January 2018 – held an event discussing Adult Social Care, complaints and processes. Attendees also heard from the Service Manager at Thurrock First.February 2018 – Saw the TDN Annual General Meeting, Keynote topic was New Model of Care for Tilbury and Chadwell.NHA Sustainable Transformation Programme regarding reconfiguration of hospital services in Mid and South Essex and the future of Orsett Hospital.**Boards, Groups and Forums*** Direct Payments Engagement Group (DPEG) – THE January topic looking at “What’s Out There?” “Direct Payments provide choice and control but without the choice what’s the point?” The February meeting looked at financial pressures in context of Direct Payments.
* In January and February 2018 respectively the Older Peoples’ Parliament and the Thurrock Emotional Wellbeing Group took part in the consultation of Thurrock Market Position Statement.
* Thurrock Autism Action Group – In March 2018 had a presentation of the Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) and its availability in Thurrock.
* Thurrock Disability Partnership Board – In March had a presentation from David Landy, the Learning Disability Nurse at Basildon and Thurrock University Hospital (BTUH).

**Lasting Power of Attorney Champions Project**Between 1st January 2018 and 31st March 2018, 67 people have been assisted to complete LPAs.**Peer Review**Thurrock Coalition’s Director/Programme Co-Ordinator participated as a Community Expert Peer in a recent Local Government Association Peer review of Oxfordshire County Council Voluntary and Community Sector (March 2018)**Coming Up**If you would like more information, please contact us on 01375 389867 or email ian@thurrockcoalition.co.uk* Older Peoples’ Parliament – Transport in Thurrock Forward Planning Topics for 2018/19 Week of Action.
* General Data Protection Regulation Training Delivery
* Social Worker Interview Assessment Day
* Disabled people and the Right to Vote

Health – Eve concerned regarding health appointments at surgery in South Ockendon, for example blood tests, there are only 50 slots for blood tests and there is a queue with no seating on a first come first served basis but people are keeping places for those who then go off to do a bit of shopping. This is unacceptable. **ACTION:** Gerry and Les to write to CCG. **ACTION:** Gerry to invite a representative from the CCG to the next meeting. | Les Billingham/ Gerry CalderGerry Calder |
| 5. | **TransVol**Neil Woodbridge gave a very informative presentation on the work of TranVol.TransVol was established in the 1990s with Thurrock CVS, unfortunately 3 years ago funding was cut completely, but have been able to continue. Application made for taking children to Beacon Hill/Treetops schools and have also gained other contracts.Trading through trips, and the use of :* 4/5 accessible minibuses
* 6 volunteer drivers own cars

TransVol is based in the Thameside Complex. * There is a £10 per annum membership fee with 550 members at present.
* Trips are charged between £3.50 and £5.00 per trip, £2 extra if passenger has a carer with them.
* Criteria for membership is someone who cannot/not able to use public transport.
* Door to door service.
* Trips are only within the Thurrock area.

**TransVol Passenger Count – 1.4.17 to 31.3.18**Volunteer Car Trips 3,300Regular Clubs 614Summer Excursions 326Group Hires 2,826Minibus 847School Transport 14,870Shopping Trips 789Urban Bus Club 1,438 **Total Passengers Transported** **25,066**  TransVol have been in talks with STP re funding for TransVol.   |  |
| **6.** | **Comfort Break** |  |
| **7.** | **Future Arrangements**The following arrangements will be made:* Meeting time to change to 10.30 am to 12.30 pm
* Meetings to continue to take place in The Beehive in Grays
* New name ‘Speak Up For Your Age – Thurrock’
* Terms of reference will be refreshed **ACTION:** Ian Evans/Karen to refresh
* What questions you have for the Transport (in the health sense – ie getting to and from hospital) topic. Hoping to invite someone to the next meeting re changes in NHS
* Week beginning 1st October 2018 – a week of action for older people in Thurrock ending with a conference on Friday 5th October 2018, week to include: The Debenham Dementia Project; Energy; LPAs Workshop; CQC Workshop.

Suggested topics for futures meetings:* Community Involvement re isolation
* Health and Transport
* Gerry to contact Local Press regarding Press Release to publicise the Week of Action for Older People in Thurrock to be held week beginning 1st October 2018. **ACTION**; Gerry to speak to local press.
* Ask Age UK regarding identifying a keynote speaker for that week.
 | Ian Evans/ Karen HalthamGerry CalderIan/Karen |
| **8.** | **Any Other Business**There was no any other business.Please feel free to bring a friend along to meetings.**The July meeting is scheduled for 24th July 2018 from 10:30am to 12:30pm at The Beehive.****The October meeting will form part of the week of action for Older People in Thurrock 2018 – exact dates to be confirmed** |  |