

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH,
INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 25 MARCH 2024 AT 10:00**

Present: Ian McNamara, Chair
Isla Cuthbert (Zoom)
David Hannah
Robert Kay
Lesley McDade
Ann McKay
Brenda Nicolson
Joan Philip
Irene Robertson

In

Attendance: Anne McDonald, Coordinator
Darren Gibson, Frontier Science Scotland (Item 14)
Councillor Isabelle MacKenzie (Zoom)
Councillor Morven Reid (Veterans' Representative)

Apologies – Jo Cowan, Brian Devlin and Rob Polson

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Welcoming everyone to the meeting, the Chair was pleased to introduce Councillor Morven Reid who was attending on behalf of Linda Niven, Veterans' Representative.

2 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

3 MINUTE OF 26 FEBRUARY 2024

The Minute of 26 February 2024 was approved.

Proposer: Joan Philip

Secunder: Robert Kay

4 NEW MEMBERS

The Chair drew the Board's attention to the spreadsheet prepared by Donna which detailed membership numbers over the past few years and the reasons for members leaving the organisation. The Coordinators were reviewing the position with regard to non-members on HSCN's mailing list. It was agreed that for the purposes of the General Data Protection Regulations a questionnaire would be issued with the next news-sheet asking members to confirm that they were happy for HSCN to continue to store their data and requesting that they inform HSCN of any changes to the data held.

5 TRUSTEES

There were no new applications.

6 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Policies and Procedures

Robert was waiting for some further information before the review could be finalised.

(b) Members' Survey

The responses to the survey had now been collated. It was agreed that a summary of the findings would be prepared for discussion at the next meeting.

7 THREE YEAR PLANNING

Further to discussion at the last meeting about reviewing HSCN's aims and objectives, the need to develop a longer term work plan had become more pressing following a request from our Coordinators to change their hours of work resulting in a reduction of 1.5 days a week. Their role would need to be redefined to reflect the elements of their post that were agreed to be priorities and what they could realistically achieve within a shorter working time. It was suggested that the funding freed up from the reduction in their hours could be used to create a third post, provided matched funding could be identified. Consideration would also need to be given to the role and responsibilities of the Trustees. It was agreed that a special meeting would be held, before the next Board meeting, to discuss the way forward.

8 REGULAR REVIEWS

(a) Risk Register

There was nothing further to report at this time; the key issues remained succession planning and funding limitations.

(b) Highlights and Success Stories

Robert had updated the register to include the peer talks on scams which continued to be well received. It was noted that people present at the talks were willing to share their experiences and could provide mutual support. Joan and Robert had also had a very productive meeting with Police Scotland's Prevention and Intervention Department who had agreed to provide an article for the news-sheet.

9 NEWS-SHEET

The news-sheet would be ready for issue later in the week and would include an item on Power of Attorney. It was agreed that this was an important topic which would be revisited in future editions.

10 FUNDING UPDATE

The Chair reported that he had contacted NHS Highland to enquire about continuing funding beyond March 2025. NHS Highland had proposed a meeting with HSCN representatives to discuss the issue and would make the necessary arrangements. Anne advised that she would be attending one of HTSI's funding meetings on 28 March 2024 and would report back to the Board in due course.

11 OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPIONS – ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Councillor MacKenzie advised that she would be attending a seminar in Edinburgh on 26 March 2024 organised by SOPA to look at developing resources to Age Friendly Communities in Scotland. She would also be joining a Social Isolation Working Group that was being set up to raise the profile and aims of the Age Friendly Strategy. She reported on concerns raised by constituents including the need for dropped kerbs to improve access for people with mobility issues, and the difficulties experienced by wheelchair users due to potholes in pavements. She was pleased to note that, representations having been made to the appropriate authorities, some of the issues had been dealt with promptly. The Board agreed that it was important to highlight positive outcomes.

12 COORDINATORS' REPORTS

Speaking to her circulated activity report for March, Anne highlighted the Tea Breaks which had generated some very interesting discussions resulting in pieces of follow up work and further demands being made on the Coordinators' working hours in addition to the time they routinely spent responding to requests for information from individuals and organisations. One of the issues covered was the switchover from analogue to digital telephones and the impact on help calls. Other topics included the closure of branches of Barclays Bank, the Care Inspectorate's new Quality Questionnaire which had been developed in partnership with HSCN, and a project being undertaken by the University of Stirling which aimed to tackle stigma related to age, disability and place. Anne noted that the popularity of indoor curling was growing and several groups had now purchased their own sets. She mentioned that HSCN had received an offer of free display boards. It was agreed to pass on this offer to older people's groups via the news-sheet.

The Board noted Jo's circulated activity report for March which gave details of the events and meetings she had participated in with different organisations and individuals covering a range of issues.

13 MEETINGS ATTENDED

Reports were received on the following meetings:-

- End of Life Care Together 20 March 2024 (Chair).

14 FRONTIER SCIENCE SCOTLAND

The Chair welcomed Darren Gibson who explained that Frontier Science Scotland was a not-for-profit contract research organising supporting academic and industrial partners, and the NHS in the UK and health services in other countries. His purpose in attending today's meeting was to discuss whether there might be an opportunity for Frontier Science Scotland to work with HSCN on a project to create a community of practice that connected each part of the patient's journey. His aim was to engage with older people to inform and help them better understand what happens to their data in the course of clinical trials, who has access to it, how it is used, where it is stored, the ethical implications of data collection and use, the analysis and outputs of the data. Given our network of members and connections with various other organisations, he was seeking HSCN's assistance to reach and communicate with older people. After discussion the Board agreed that the information Mr Gibson wanted to share with older people could be disseminated via the news-sheets and get together. Mr Gibson undertook to provide an article for a future news-sheet, and thereafter the topic could be discussed at a tea break which it was felt would provide the best starting point to roll out the project.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked Mr Gibson for his presentation and answering the points raised by the Board.

15 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The Board noted the circulated minute of the Communications Group meeting held on 18 March 2024.

16 SCAMS AWARENESS PEER SPEAKING PILOT

Joan reported that in addition to the talks on scams, there were plans to deliver a further four presentations which were currently in development; these were doorstep crime, falls prevention, vulnerable adults and Power of Attorney, and older adults and mental health and wellbeing. During discussion reference was made to the Neighbourhood Watch initiative and the position with regard to local schemes.

17 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board received and noted the circulated financial statement for February 2024.

18 AOCB

(a) Great Wilderness Challenge 2024

It was noted that this year's event would be held on 17 August.

19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 29 April 2024. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.