

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH,
INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 29 APRIL 2024 AT 10:00**

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

In

Attendance: Jo Cowan, Coordinator (Zoom)
Anne McDonald, Coordinator
Linda Bailey (Zoom)

Apologies – Brian Devlin, Robert Kay, Isabelle MacKenzie and Rob Polson

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were as noted above.

2 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

3 MINUTE OF 25 MARCH 2024

The Minute of 25 March 2024 was approved.

Proposer: Joan Philip
Seconder: Ann McKay

4 MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA

(a) Funding

Anne fed back on a meeting she had attended on 28 March 2024 at which HTSI had outlined the process and the timescale for the next round of funding allocations. Further consultation events were planned for the Third Sector.

(b) HSCN Non-Members

The Coordinators reported on progress with their review of the list of non-members on HSCN's mailing list.

5 NEW MEMBERS

Updating the Board on current membership numbers, the Chair confirmed that HSCN had met its GDPR obligations.

6 TRUSTEES

The Chair was pleased to welcome Linda Bailey who had submitted an application to become a Trustee. Her application would be considered at a meeting of the Trustees to be held following today's Board meeting.

7 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Policies and Procedures

The necessary information was now available to enable the review group to finalise the outstanding policies.

(b) 'Time Out' Meeting 12 April 2024

Ann spoke to her circulated summary report of the meeting held on 12 April 2024 and proposed that another meeting be held to review the Coordinators' work time allocation, agree the activities that should be prioritised and draw up a development plan accordingly. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged for this purpose.

8 REGULAR REVIEWS

(a) Risk Register

There was nothing further to report at this time.

(b) Highlights and Success Stories

Jo reported on the first Open Evening of the Badenoch Men's Shed Steering Group to establish the need and support required for a men's shed in Badenoch. It had been a very well attended and successful event, and the Group had expressed its thanks for HSCN's support in this venture.

9 NEWS-SHEET

The next news-sheet would be issued in the last week of May.

10 FUNDING UPDATE

The Chair confirmed that the first tranche of funding for 2024 – 25 had been received from NHS Highland. A date remained to be arranged for the proposed meeting with representatives of NHS Highland to discuss continuing funding beyond March 2025.

11 OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPIONS – ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

No issues were raised.

12 COORDINATORS' REPORTS

The Board received the Coordinators' circulated activity reports for May, noting that they had spent some considerable time during the month responding to enquiries from individuals and groups. Jo updated on the development of the Badenoch Men's Shed, highlighted at Item 8(b). She also reported on the joint HSCN/Age Scotland members' get together for Badenoch & Strathspey to be held in Kingussie on 20 May 2024. A second meeting about safety on public transport had taken place which Jo had attended. It was proposed that an article on this issue be included in a future news-sheet.

Anne gave details of the topics discussed at the tea-breaks among which were the consultation on the proposed introduction of a Right to Palliative Care Bill and Stirling University's ISPA (Intersectional Stigma of Place Based Ageing) Project. She reported on a Webinar on 17 April 2024 at which Professor Derek Feeley, who led the independent review of adult social care in Scotland, had talked about shaping the future of health and social care. It was suggested that his presentation be shared with HSCN's members via the news-sheet. Referring to the Truacanta Project, Anne advised that Highland Hospice and Creativity in Care, HSCN's partners in the Highland project, had agreed to a summary of the work being printed which would be shared with the Board at a future meeting. It was noted that the Spring issue of Advantage, Age Scotland's magazine, had featured a short article on the Highland project.

13 MEETINGS ATTENDED

Reports were received on the following meetings:-

- Joint Monitoring Committee 27 March 2024 (Chair).
- Right to Palliative Care Bill 19 April 2024 (Joan). This meeting had raised many questions with the aim of encouraging people to talk about end of life issues and consider the implications of the Bill and the impact on other services if it was introduced.

- Strategic Planning Group Adult Social Care 24 April 2024 (Chair). Discussion had taken place on the development of the nine locality planning groups, each of which would be allocated a budget, and further meetings were planned to consider their operation. It was agreed to seek clarification on how the groups could use their budgets.

14 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The Board noted the circulated minute of the Communications Group meeting held on 22 April 2024. Reference was made to regional meetings. The Board was mindful of the amount of time required to organise these events and would need to consider which activities should be given priority in order to maximise the Coordinators' hours of work.

15 SCAMS AWARENESS PEER SPEAKING PILOT

Joan informed the Board that there were presently no further talks scheduled.

16 FINANCIAL REPORT

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

17 AOCB

(a) Great Wilderness Challenge

The Chair reminded the Board that the Great Wilderness Challenge would be held on 17 August 2024. Discussion followed on a number of other events which HSCN could perhaps participate in or help to promote, but consideration would need to be given to the benefit that might be gained in terms of raising HSCN's profile and attracting new members. Linda undertook to pursue this matter on behalf of the Board. Jo would look into the possibility of a joint stand with Age Scotland at this year's Highland Pride event on 22 June.

(b) Power of Attorney (POA)

The Board recognised that people might be deterred from setting up a POA because of the cost involved. It was suggested that an approach be made to NHS Highland to discuss the possibility of putting some resources in place to encourage and support people to make the necessary arrangements.

(c) Reports/Issues raised by Trustees

- Brenda reported on the various meetings and events she had attended. She raised the issue of availability and accessibility of ear wax removal services. It was recalled that an item had featured in a previous news-sheet outlining the appropriate route to take when there was a clinical need for ear syringing.
- Ann referred to changes in charity law and potential implications for HSCN. The Chair agreed to follow this up with OSCR, and Anne would seek advice from Age Scotland.
- Ann had been recruited to the Social Prescribing Coordinating Group as a Third Sector representative. The Group would be meeting in May.
- David highlighted the Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) campaign. As the women affected were older people who were eligible for HSCN membership, it was agreed it would be appropriate to include an item on this subject in the news-sheet. On the point raised by David about the distribution of HSCN's news-sheet, it was confirmed that copies were sent to community councils.
- David reported on the online training seminars which the Royal British Legion Scotland was running for its members to inform them about the aims and objectives of the organisation, what it did, how it was funded, etc. He wondered if HSCN might consider organising something similar for its members. After consideration, the Board agreed that this was more appropriately a role for HTSI to undertake.

- There was a general discussion around the shortage of carers and lack of home care provision. It was acknowledged that this was a global problem and that there were no ready solutions, nevertheless the Board agreed that HSCN should continue to raise the issue and keep it to the fore with the relevant authorities. It was also important that people used health and social care services appropriately and responsibly and did not make unnecessary calls on them.

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 27 May 2024. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.