

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH,
INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 10:00**

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

Apologies – Linda Bailey, Brian Devlin, Robert Kay, Lesley McDade, Brenda Nicolson, 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 26 AUGUST 2024

The Minute of 26 August 2024 was approved.

Proposer: Joan Philip

Seconder: David Hannah

4 HSCN Membership

The Board noted the latest membership figures.

5 TRUSTEES

No new applications had been received.

6 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Policies and Procedures

It was noted that the Finance Policy required to have the dates for the financial year updated on an annual basis. Isla undertook to do this.

(b) AGM & Gathering 12 September 2024

The Communications Group had discussed the Gathering at its meeting on 23 September 2024. Feedback from the evaluation forms was generally positive and some helpful comments and suggestions had been made which would be taken on board in planning future events.

7 REGULAR REVIEWS

(a) Risk Register

No new issues were raised.

8 NEWS-SHEET

The arrangements for the production and distribution of the next news-sheet were in hand.

9 THREE YEAR PLANNING - FUNDING UPDATE

The Chair advised that the outcome of the meeting with NHS Highland on 27 August 2024 to discuss continuing funding beyond March 2025 was awaited.

10 OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPIONS – ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

No issues were raised.

11 COORDINATORS' REPORTS

The Board received the Coordinators' circulated activity reports for September 2024. In her report, Jo had highlighted concerns about the imminent closure of Moss Park Care Home in Caol with the loss of 39 places. Discussions were ongoing between NHS Highland and the Highland Council as to the way forward. The report mentioned the opportunity taken by HSCN to support the Human Rights Consortium Scotland in their letter urging the Scottish Government to bring forward the Scottish Human Rights Bill. The Board noted that work was underway in Lochaber to re-establish a befriending service under the auspices of Voluntary Action Lochaber, and that arrangements were in hand for a gathering to be held in the Lochaber area on 28 October 2024. Anne's report gave details of the tea-breaks held in September and the topics for discussion during October, along with the meetings she had had with representatives from a range of different organisations. She was also looking into the possibility of arranging a gathering in the North later in the year.

12 MEETINGS ATTENDED

Reports were received on the following meetings:-

- Joint Monitoring Committee 25 September 2024 (Chair).
- Strategic Planning Group 26 September 2024 (Chair). Discussion had taken place on the Adult Social Care Strategy which had been agreed and now required to be implemented. Key issues to be addressed were delayed discharges and delivering care at home. In this latter regard the Chair referred to the End of Life Care Together project in Highland which was proving effective, in terms of both quality of care and cost, in enabling people to have end of life care at home rather than being admitted to hospital.
- Social Prescribing Coordinating Group. Reporting on the second meeting of this group, Ann explained that social prescribing enabled GPs and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services to support their health and wellbeing. The role of the community link worker in the process was noted. A further meeting was planned for October, and Ann would continue to keep the Board updated.

13 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The circulated minute of the meeting held on 23 September 2024 was noted.

14 SCAMS AWARENESS PEER SPEAKING PILOT

No further talks had been arranged for the present. The next news-sheet would include information about the other presentations that could be delivered in addition to scams awareness.

15 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board received and noted the circulated financial statement for August 2024. The final tranche of funding under the current contract with NHS Highland would be received in early October.

16 AOCB

(a) Highland Blindcraft Sensory Services Open Day

The Chair reported on this event held on 23 September 2024 at which HSCN had had an information stand. It had provided an opportunity for making connections with a range of organisations and sharing information about available services.

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 28 October 2024. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.

The meeting closed at 10:45