

OLDER PEOPLES PLAN - UPDATE 2009/10

Cabinet Member	Cllr Ray Puddifoot / Cllr Philip Corthorne
Cabinet Portfolio	Leader of the Council / Social Services, Health and Housing
Officer Contact	Dan Kennedy
Papers with report	Older People's Action Plan 2009-2010

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To provide a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan from the Older People's Plan 2008-2011.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The older people's plan assists the Council to deliver its plan 'Fast Forward to 2010' and with partners assists in delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy for Hillingdon. These in turn contribute to the Comprehensive Area Assessment for Hillingdon.
Financial Cost	The majority of proposals will be financed from within existing resources. However, some proposals may be financed via funding set aside under the "Leader's Initiative".
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Social Services, Health and Housing
Ward(s) affected	All

RECOMMENDATION:

That Cabinet notes the achievements at the end of September 2009 of the older people's action plan for 2009/10 as set out in appendix one.

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

1. The development of the three-year older people's plan 2008-2011 endorses the commitment from the Council and its partners to the continued development and improvement of services designed to create a better quality of life for older people in Hillingdon. The plan supports the council in delivering it's plan 'Fast Forward to 2010' and supports Hillingdon in delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Alternative options considered

2. None considered

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

3. None at this stage

Supporting Information

4. The Older People's Plan from 2008-2011 is the second three-year plan for older people in Hillingdon, and continues the work of the 2005-2008 plan. On 15 July 2008 Cabinet approved the three-year plan for older people 2008-2011. The implementation of the plan is achieved through annual action plan targets.
5. The three year plan was developed in consultation with older people and a wide range of partners including the Hillingdon Primary Care Trust, Hillingdon Hospital, the voluntary sector, Police, Ambulance Service and Fire Brigade. This collaborative approach has proved successful and will continue to further improve services for older people in the borough and promote active ageing in Hillingdon.
6. The Older Peoples Plan 2008-2011 is made up of eight themes which older people have said are important to them. The eight themes are:
 - Safety and security
 - Preventative care
 - Keeping independent and healthy
 - Tackling age discrimination
 - Planning for retirement
 - Housing
 - Learning and sharing skills
 - Consulting and informing
7. The action plan is regularly monitored and updated and further work is underway during 2009/10 to develop the involvement of the Older Peoples Assembly and the FORCE Group (the Older Peoples Assembly Steering Group) in monitoring the plan and developing actions for future years. Projects identified by the Leader's Initiative are considered against these stated themes.
8. There have been a number of achievements during 2009/10 so far. Achievements include:

Safety and Security

- Free burglar alarms - the provision of free burglar alarms to older people who are victims of crime – a total of 171 alarms were installed in 2008/09 and in the first six months of 2009/10, the number of alarms installed has increased to 392 working in partnership with Age Concern. 1,000 alarms will be fitted by the end of March 2010. During 2008/09, 82% of older people said they felt safer in their own homes after an alarm was installed. This project has been funded by the Leader's Initiative. As at 30 November 2009, 576 alarms had been installed.
- Fire safety – the London Fire Brigade have conducted 1043 fire safety visits to the homes of older people during the first six months of 2009/10. These assessments help to make sure the risk from fire is minimised in the home.

Preventative Care

- Transforming social care – Hillingdon Council is on track to transform social care by offering people who are eligible for assistance a personal budget. This budget will

allow people who need support the opportunity to have a greater say in what support they would like to meet their needs. During 2009/10 a number of pilots are being held to test arrangements for a personal budget before the initiative is extended to existing and new service users.

Keeping Independent and Healthy

- **Extending the Brown Badge Parking Scheme** – The Brown Badge Parking Scheme offers older people a designated place to park their car / vehicle which means older people are closer to amenities. All 22 Council-owned car parks have Brown Badge parking bays. At 27 November 2009 a total of 4,206 Brown Badges have been issued since the scheme was introduced. During 2009/10 additional Brown Badge parking bays have been installed at the Chimes Shopping Centre and at Breakspear Crematorium. Additional bays are being installed at the Willow Tree Retail Park (Yeading), Ruislip Lido and Highgrove Pool. In addition, bays are to be installed at West Ruislip railway station, the Iceland Supermarket in Hayes, and the Halfords / Wickes Retail Park in Uxbridge. Permission has also been granted for Brown Badge parking bays at the Sainsbury's / Homebase retail outlet in Hayes.
- **Free Swimming** – to help older people keep fit and active, free swimming sessions are available to all people aged 60 years or older. The take-up of this new initiative has been tremendous – more than 15,000 free swims were provided during the six months from April to September 2009. Additional swimming sessions have been provided to meet demand.
- **Dedicated Advice and Support** – Working closely with Age Concern, a dedicated worker has been appointed to offer older people advice and information to promote healthier lifestyles.
- **Improving Dining Clubs and Community Facilities** – with funding from the Leader's Initiative, support has been provided to dining clubs and community facilities to invest in new equipment and maintain delivery of vital community services for older people.

Tackling Age Discrimination

- **Providing Support Through the Economic Downturn** – working closely with Age Concern, Hillingdon Council has supported the appointment of a dedicated worker to offer financial advice and information to older people working across the Borough as part of the 'Ageing Well' activities programme. In addition, the Joint Visiting Team made up of staff from Hillingdon Council and the Department for Work and Pensions held a benefits awareness event in Ruislip during September 2009, working closely with faith leaders to ensure members of their community have access to benefits advice.

Planning for Retirement

- **Information about Planning for Retirement** – is scheduled for the January / February 2010 edition of Hillingdon People.
- **Promoting Volunteering Opportunities** – In partnership with Hillingdon Carers we have developed focused publicity to encourage carers to consider volunteering to enhance their well-being but also as a tool for returning to paid employment once their caring commitments have ended.

Housing

- Improving Housing Conditions for Older People – we have continued to improve the homes of older people. During the first six months of 2009/10 this includes: improvements to the central heating systems of 45 homes occupied by older people; improved insulation measures in 202 homes and essential repairs to a further 47 homes. The improvements are helping older people to remain living in their own home.
- Specialist Extra Care Housing – The Council is actively progressing the development of extra care housing using funding from the Homes and Communities Agency. Extra care housing will be able to provide support and care for people with more complex needs as an alternative to residential care settings. Our partner Registered Social Landlord (Paradigm) have started work on the extra care scheme at the RAF West Ruislip Site, and the Council have received £7m Government funding for re-development of the Triscott House sheltered housing scheme into extra care sheltered housing.

Learning and Sharing Skills

- Developing IT skills – promoting access to support and learning opportunities for older people to develop their skills in using IT.

Consulting and Informing

- Dedicated Information for Older People - information for older people has been improved, with a dedicated page for older people in every edition of the Council's publication for local residents (called 'Hillingdon People').
- Supporting Hillingdon's Older People's Assembly – dedicated to older people, the Assembly have engaged in a number of key discussion items in the last six months including: creating a healthy lifestyle and healthy living; tackling loneliness and depression and the support and services offered by voluntary sector services.

9. A full progress update of the action plan for the first six months of 2009/10 is attached under appendix one.

Financial Implications

10. The majority of proposals will be financed from within existing resources. However, some proposals may be financed via funding set aside under the "Leader's Initiative".

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

11. The 2008-2011 Older Peoples Plan was welcomed by older people as positively continuing to raise their value and profile and as an opportunity to improve the lives of older people in the community.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

12. Engagement with older people to review the 2008-2011 plan will help to identify future priorities for development.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

13. A corporate finance officer has reviewed the report and its financial implications, and is satisfied that these reflect the resource implications for the Council of the implementation of the Older People's Plan. There are no additional financial implications arising from the recommendations of the report.

Legal

14. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Older People's Action Plan 2009-2010 - Update - Appendix one