

# OLDER PEOPLES PLAN - UPDATE 2009/10

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

## HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Purpose of report</b>	To provide a progress report on the improvements during 2009/10 for older people contained within the Older People's Plan.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	The Older People's plan assists the Council to deliver its plan 'Fast Forward to 2010' to put residents first and to work with partners in delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy for Hillingdon.
<b>Financial Cost</b>	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".
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Social Services, Health and Housing
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All

## RECOMMENDATION

**That Cabinet notes the significant achievements to deliver the Older People's Action Plan during 2009/10 to improve the quality of life of Older People.**

## 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 its 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 health and well-being in Hillingdon.
6. The Older People's 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. Projects identified by the Leader's Initiative are considered against these stated themes.
8. There have been a number of achievements during 2009/10. Highlights include:

### **Safety and Security**

- Free burglar alarms - the provision of free burglar alarms to older people who are victims of crime – by the end of 2009/10 1,000 alarms have been installed in the homes of older people in partnership with Age UK. During 2009/10, all the people who received an alarm said they felt safer in their own homes after an alarm was installed. This project has been funded by the Leader's Initiative and is continuing into 2010/11.
- Fire safety – the London Fire Brigade have conducted more than 2,100 home fire safety visits in 2009/10 for vulnerable people. 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 have started with individuals who require social care support 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. A total of 43 Brown Badge parking bays have been installed in 17 new private car parks. 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. Six additional parking bays have been installed at the Lombardy Retail Park in Hayes and bays have also been installed at West Ruislip Railway Station. Take-up of the initiative continues to increase – at the end of March 2010 4959 badges had been issued since the scheme started.
- 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 – nearly 30,000 free swims were provided during 2009/10. Additional swimming sessions have been provided to meet demand.
- Dedicated Advice and Support – Working closely with Age UK, 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 – the January / February edition of Hillingdon People included an article about Life Changes and where to go for further information.

- 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 2009/10 this included: improvements to the central heating systems of 121 homes occupied by older people; improved insulation measures in 354 homes and essential repairs to a further 101 homes. The improvements are helping older people to remain living in their own home. All targets to improve the homes of older people have been exceeded.
- 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 have started work on the extra care scheme at the RAF West Ruislip Site, and the Council have received £7m Government funding to include the 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, including older people living in sheltered housing.

## **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 nine 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 during 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 for the implementation of the Older People's Plan. Corporate Finance is satisfied that the majority of the proposals will be contained within existing budgets but that some proposals may be financed by funding set aside under the "Leader's Initiative".

### **Legal**

14. Under the Council's Constitution the Cabinet has the appropriate powers to agree the recommendation proposed at the outset of this report. There are no other significant legal implications arising out of this report to bring to Cabinet's attention.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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