

The Age Well Partnership

What Is The Age Well Partnership?

The Age Well Partnership is a strategic group promoting the needs and aspirations of people over 50 living in the Borough of Blackburn with Darwen.

We look at the local Health and Wellbeing plans in regard to services for older adults and support the development of those plans. We want to ensure older people are supported to remain independent and socially included.

What Does The Age Well Partnership Do?

We work with all those who commission or provide services used by the over 50s.

We also ensure the views and experiences of the over 50s are made known to those who have responsibility for the decisions affecting people's daily lives.

How Can You Contribute To This Work?

Our panel of citizens is crucial to the work we do in ensuring services are fit for purpose. It is some time since we updated our membership and we will be looking to do this in September 2016. It's important we have a wide profile of people in terms of age, ethnicity and sexuality to be able to represent everyone. We would be especially pleased to recruit people in the 50- 65 age group and those from the LGBT community.

We have recently held discussion groups on the following:

- A leaflet on Polymeric diets (on behalf of the East Lancs Hospital Trust)
- A leaflet on Hip & Knee surgery (on behalf of the East Lancs Hospital Trust)
- Local health & social care campaigns
- Dementia and digital communication (on behalf of Lancaster University)
- BwD's strategy on "Eat Well, Move More, Shape Up"
- Shorey Bank extra care housing (on behalf of BwD planning)

And a group is planned for October 2016 on Brain Ageing (on behalf of Age UK England)

For more details on how you can contribute contact us on (01254) 266620.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING PRIORITIES FOR 2016-18?

There are four priorities:

- Dementia
- Social Isolation
- Key Determinants of Health
- The Local Integrated Service offer

Key Determinants

This priority looks to meeting needs that impact on health such as finance matters including debt management, employment, housing, and fuel poverty. The Partnership considers issues as required and ensures that services are available to support independence.

Agency Help Link

This is a signposting tool developed by the Age Well Partnership with professional partners for all to use to facilitate their customers to access services according to need. It is triaged by Your Support, Your Choice who, on receipt of a form, will contact the customer and arrange for appropriate service providers to meet the needs presented.

Finance Matters

It is important that people are made aware of any entitlements are claimed as individual circumstances change due to ill health.

Housing

We are pleased to see the opening of the Easy Step sheltered extra care housing for those living with dementia on the old infirmary site. This is a new innovative provision that has specialised provision to support residents.

The proposed extra care housing in Darwen at the Shorey Bank site is progressing. The Partnership has been asked to consult Darwen residents about a possible name for the site.

Employment

Increasing numbers of older residents age 50 – 66 are being evaluated as fit for work and are having to seek employment. Whilst it is recognised this is difficult, we are pleased that Blackburn with Darwen are part of a Lancashire wide initiative to increase opportunities for older workers funded jointly by the Big Lottery and the EU.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Older People's Day – 1 October is designated National Older People's Day. The Age Well Partnership is planning to celebrate ageing with the publication of a list of activities around the first week in October. We are trying to identify groups who would like to participate.

WHAT ELSE IS THE AGE WELL PARTNERSHIP DOING?

Hospital Liaison

The Partnership has representation on some working groups with the East Lancs Hospital Trust: the Patient Outpatient group and the Nutrition and Hydration Steering Group.

Mental Health

Mental Health is an important strand of work that cuts across all the priorities for health and wellbeing for all age groups. It has its own work plan coordinated by Public Health. We ensure any issues relating to older adults are picked up by appropriate services.

Integrated Strategic Needs Assessment (ISNA)

The Age Well Partnership has a role in influencing and providing support in the development of ISNAs that relate to older adults. These documents research specific topics and relate data to the local situation, identifying good practice and gaps in services.

Recommendations are made to commissioners of services.

We engage with local people to ensure their experiences and perspectives enrich the information included in the research. We also follow up on the recommendations to make sure services are developing.

The following topics have been covered:

- Dementia (published 2011)
- Social isolation and Loneliness (published 2013)
- Trips and Falls (published 2015)
- Worklessness (due 2016)

The Partnership has set up a professional task group to look again at the recommendations in the Trips and Falls ISNA and to ensure they are followed through. As part of this work, Blackburn with Darwen has registered with RoSPA's national programme on falls prevention.

The final documents are held by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and available by following this [LINK](#)

Health Promotion

It is important that the Age Well Partnership understands changing policy on various health conditions and any upcoming initiatives locally and nationally. We attend conferences and briefings as appropriate.

The Partnership also has a role in bringing this information to the attention of the public. We will visit groups in the local community to pass on important messages and ensure your views are fed back.