



INFORMATION SHEET


LIVERPOOL OLDER PEOPLE PANEL

Liverpool City Council, in partnership with Liverpool PCT is committed to supporting the older citizens of Liverpool to allow them to be fully engaged in decision making processes. This will ensure that the expressed needs of older people are at the centre of our planning and commissioning arrangements.

Liverpool is fortunate that there are many older people's groups within the City but at present there is no clear process through which the views of all these groups can be considered. Neither is there a clear and consistent mechanism to capture the views of those older people who do not wish to participate in groups or are unable to do so due to social isolation or frailty.

With this in mind a series of meetings have been held with older people from a variety of groups, from which a mandate has been given to establish an Older People's Panel in the City.

The vision for the Panel is that all older people groups and individual older people can, if they wish, become more involved in influencing decision making. The process for involvement in the Panel will be through registration onto an electronic data base. Groups and individuals will be able to register specific areas of interest and/or expertise and the level to which they would like to become involved. The Panel will be governed by a group of older people, known as the Executive. The Executive will be made up of a number of individuals nominated and selected from existing older people's groups and forums. The Executive will, in turn, nominate (from within their number) three (3) representatives to become full members of the Older People's Making it Happen Board, to be established in September 2009. This will ensure that the views of Older People are directly influencing recommendations on the commissioning of Older People's Services.



Every month we spend improving services for older people..... is a month closer to using the services ourselves!

Older people involved in developing this model have agreed that the Panel Executive will be chaired in the first instance, by Councillor John Clucas with additional membership being drawn from the Senior Citizens Forum, the 50 Plus Group and the Quality and Inclusion Group and the Older People Champion Collaborative Chairperson (older person); each of these groups can nominate 3 people to sit on the Executive. Terms of reference and role descriptions have been agreed for members/representatives of the Panel. Membership of the Executive will be time limited to ensure that a wider range of people have the opportunity to take on this role.

The establishment of the Older People's Panel in Liverpool will make local engagement and decision making processes richer and more robust. The formation of the Older People's Panel will further ensure that Older People's voices in Liverpool are able to be heard at regional and national level.

The Minister for Pensions Reform (Mike O'Brien) underlined this commitment when he announced on 22 May 2008 that John Elbourne, former Chief Executive of Prudential Assurance UK, had been asked to '*examine the current arrangements for the engagement of older people and the ability of those arrangements to inform policy and actions of Government at all levels*'. Specifically, this included examining the role of Better Government for Older People, a partnership of government and third-sector organisations with older people's groups.¹

The Final Report to Government was published on the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) website on 18 November 2008, following publication of emerging findings in October 2008. Comments were invited by 9 January 2009 to inform the Government response, which Liverpool contributed to.

Empowering engagement: a stronger voice for older people is the Government's response to the review.²

The model of engagement agreed in the strategy will involve Government Office North West linking in with local engagement structures and then supporting older people to link at a regional and national level. This will replace some of the work undertaken by Better Government for Older People. The Older People's Panel fits very well with the Government Strategy, Empowering engagement: a stronger voice for older people. This means that Liverpool is very well placed to support this wider network on behalf of older people in the City.

Your involvement can be as much or a little as you would wish. You may simply want to be kept informed via a regular newsletter or become more involved by sitting on a focus group or an interview panel. You may choose to comment on strategies or take part in surveys which could be face to face, telephone, online or postal.

¹ Report to Government, John Elbourne, Review of older people engagement

² Empowering engagement: a stronger voice for older people

