

Older People Steering Group – Quarterly Meeting Notes.

Date: 3 September 2025

Time: 9:30 AM – 11:13 AM

Co-Chair: Vanessa Pugh (Older People Commissioner, Slough Borough Council)
& Bhaskaran – Co-production Volunteer, Living in Harmony group founder

1. Introductions

Participants included representatives from:

- Slough Borough Council (Adult Social Care, Public Health, Commissioning)
- Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Slough CVS
- Healthwatch Slough
- Memory Clinic (Upton Hospital)
- Co-production Network
- volunteers and carers

2. Dementia Awareness & Film Showcase

- Three short films were presented, highlighting lived experiences of dementia.
- Produced collaboratively with carers and professionals.
- Aimed to reduce stigma and encourage early diagnosis.
- Supported by a resident and a professional healthcare information pack.
- Positive feedback from attendees; praised for authenticity and emotional impact.

3. Long-Term Conditions Discussion

- Concerns raised about fragmented care for individuals with multiple conditions.
- Proposal to form a Task & Finish Group to explore holistic care approaches.
- Highlighted need for:
- Joined-up services
- “What Matters to Me” conversations
- Community health hubs (Britwell, Wexham)
- Emotional health and pain management support

4. Support for Unpaid Carers

- New initiatives include:
- Carers Support & Development Officer
- Flexible respite care pilot

- Free access to Carers UK digital platform
- Community events (Carers Celebration Day, Carers Rights Day)

5. Social Isolation & Loneliness

- Recognized as a growing public health concern.
- Emphasis on meaningful connections, not just physical presence.
- Loneliness map and health needs assessment underway.
- Plans to expand befriending services and buddying schemes.

6. Digital Inclusion

- Concerns about digital poverty and exclusion.
- Proposal for training, device access, and support.
- Plans to develop a Digital Inclusion Task & Finish Group.
- Potential collaboration with Slough CVS and tech partners.

7. Acute to Community Pathways

- New Task & Finish Group launched to bridge hospital and community care.
- Focus on proactive care, early intervention, and reducing emergency admissions.

8. Co-production Celebration Event

- Slough's approach to older people's strategy was highlighted at the co-production celebration event.
- Highlighted achievements in dementia, loneliness, and digital inclusion.

9. Upcoming Events

- Older People's Question Time – 1 October 2025
- Call for questions from residents
- Flyers to be circulated
- Volunteers needed for event support

10. Other Updates

- Wexham Park Hospital is rated Outstanding by CQC.
- Plans for a new Information & Advice Hub in Church Street, Slough.
- Funding delays affecting some community groups noted.