

Older People Steering Group Meeting Notes

Date: 27 May 2025

Chair: Vanessa Pugh and Dolly Bhaskaran

1. Dementia Support

The group discussed the development of dementia information leaflets for residents and professionals. Concerns were raised about font size and accessibility. Distribution plans include GP surgeries, memory clinics, and community groups. A dementia awareness film featuring real-life stories is in production to support public understanding.

2. Social Isolation and Loneliness

The task and finish group on social isolation and intergenerational families is being revived. The group aims to address loneliness and its link to dementia. A health needs assessment is underway to guide future actions.

3. Hospital Discharge Pathways

A new project is examining hospital discharge pathways to improve outcomes and reduce readmissions. The focus is on early intervention, personalised care, and better coordination between health and social care teams. Concerns were raised about information sharing and the need for simplified patient summaries.

4. Digital Inclusion and Safety

The digital task and finish group discussed cybersecurity and digital exclusion among older people. Ideas included printed safety checklists for scam calls and collaboration with local organisations offering digital skills training. The group highlighted the need for infrastructure support and awareness campaigns.

5. Early Intervention and Prevention

Members emphasised the importance of early intervention to prevent hospital admissions and complications. Suggestions included proactive health checks, vitamin D awareness, and community-based support. The need for holistic care addressing physical, emotional, and mental health was highlighted.

6. Falls Prevention

The falls prevention needs assessment is nearing completion. The group discussed timely access to mobility aids and the importance of core strength in reducing fall risk. Concerns were raised about the disposal of usable equipment and the need for better recycling and reuse practices.

7. Other Updates

Plans are underway for the Older People's Question Time event on 1 October 2025. Three short films are being produced to raise awareness about dementia, end-of-life care, and the steering group's work. The annual report will be prepared for Cabinet later in the year.