

# Champion for Older People

## Report on Expenditure from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

To assist the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Members by advising on service issues across Service Areas which support and encourage active, independent and healthy lives for older people.

My role as Lancashire County Council's Champion for Older People has provided me with the privileged opportunity to get close to, and work closely with Older People in their communities across Lancashire. Older People, that's people over the age of 55 years, are a valuable part of Lancashire's economy whether that be through their ongoing employment, their work as volunteers or as carers within family units and they deserve credit for this.

I hope I have achieved my aim for the year which was to promote a positive image of ageing. Following retirement many people seek to continue, and invest more time in their hobbies and interest groups whilst others are looking for interests and the opportunities to develop new skills and make new friends. All contributing to a good quality of life and ensuring that they don't become victims of loneliness and isolation both a serious health risk and the cause of many premature deaths. In fact living with loneliness carries the equivalent health risk of smoking fifteen cigarettes per day!

Thankfully, in Lancashire there are numerous groups providing activities to people over 55 years. Those groups that I have visited during the year total twenty three and have included the Nifty Fifties in North Meols, Divine Days Creative Arts in Skelmersdale, Queenscourt Dementia Café in Penwortham, New Longton Bowling Club, Whittle-le-Woods Women's Guild, Life Long Song in Chorley, Penwortham Holme West Allotments, Ormskirk and Aughton University of the Third, Pennine Seniors Group, The Rainbow Centre (the youth club for the Over 55's) in Morecambe and Find a Friend Luncheon Club in Farington, to name just a few but to give you a flavour of the diversity of what's on offer.

Alongside visits to groups I have attended thirty events across the County fulfilling my role as Champion for Older People. Examples of these are a celebration of Black History Month, the rebranding of Age Concern Central Lancashire and a Senior Road Users Conference.

As the Champion for Older People I am allocated a sum of £10,000 per annum for use at my discretion, within guidelines as set out by the Authority. The Champion grant scheme is an extremely easy and popular way of providing small amounts of funding to a wide range of groups who need financial support via a simple process. As a result of a press release in July last year and my efforts promoting the fund, twenty nine groups have received funding this year totalling £10,035.

The first grant was awarded to Coal Clough Lane Community Centre in Burnley to fund some evening centre activities for over 55's. Grants have covered expenses such as room hire, running costs, speaker costs, purchase of equipment such as TV, laptop computers, lawn mower, craft materials, promotional materials and activities such as bowling, fitness sessions and trips out. The full amount of this year's fund was allocated, with the final grant going to Hilldale Community Centre in Parbold who wanted to provide seating on their local green for elderly residents living in their hamlet. The fund was oversubscribed so four applications were carried over into 2018/19. I cannot emphasise enough just how important this funding is to groups of older people across the county, for whom just a little bit of money can make a major difference to the work that they want to do and the lives of the people they support.

I have regularly attended a development network, the North West Elected Member Champions for Older People Network. A mouth full I know but basically, the Network is a forum where Champions can share learning and guests are invited to the meetings in order that Champion members can have sight of some of the good practice and learn from the area in which the network meeting is on that day. The speakers give their time freely in order to assist member development and meeting venues are across the North West. Speakers have included those from Age UK, a Clinical Commissioning Group, Carers and Well Being Service in Lancashire Constabulary's Digital and Intelligence Unit. Venues for the meetings have included Bury Town Hall, Lancaster Town Hall and County Hall.

Lancashire has a number of Older People's Forums and I have visited the Forums in Preston, Pendle and Fylde. These area Forum's appoint representatives to attend the Lancashire 50+ Assembly, their overarching body which meets four times a year. The Assembly is very well attended and its theme for the year was around social isolation and loneliness. Sub groups are established to look at particular issues and respond to Lancashire County Council and other organisations consultations.

In October in recognition of the International Day of Older People the Chairman of Lancashire County Council and I hosted a reception for Older People at County Hall to celebrate the work of the groups mentioned in this report. Over 100 people attended, all of the mind-set that being Older in Lancashire should mean a person has an active fulfilling life and they should be participating in things that interest them.

With all of the above in mind, and a growing older population in our county, I think we need to continue with the good work being undertaken and promoting the positive image of Older People. The vast majority of us are maintaining good physical and mental health and are very active in our communities. The saying "if you didn't know how old you are, how old would you be?" comes to mind and represents so many of the people that I have met. At the same time we must not forget those in our number who are vulnerable and services need to continue, and develop further to support these people. We want to continue to address Older People's concerns, such as preventing falls and giving the right support for people living with conditions like dementia.

I have welcomed having the ear of senior decisions makes in our Authority. I regularly brief the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members in particular the members in Health and Wellbeing and Adult Services, alongside the Directors of these departments upon what I have seen and heard whilst out and about. I do hope these findings contribute to the allocation of funding and the shaping of services in the future.

The position of Older People's Champion for Lancashire is a high profile role and demanding and I take it very seriously. It is vital that I go out and meet people around the County. I can safely say that I have done just that in travelling many miles during this past year and appreciation and feedback has been gratefully received and humbling. There is still much to do and I look forward to continuing in the role and the next twelve months ahead.

***County Councillor Joan Burrows  
Champion for Older People***

## Schedule of Expenditure for 2017/18

<b>County Councillor Joan Burrows – Champion for Older People</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>
Coal Clough Lane Community Group (Burnley) – Evening activities for over 55's	£220
New Age Fitness (West Lancashire) – Room hire for elderly fitness classes	£300
Sporting Challenge (West Lancashire) – Bowling and fitness session for the elderly	£500
Chorley Pensioners Association – Costs of speakers for monthly meetings	£500
Farington Moss St Paul's Bowling Club (South Ribble) – Store room for motor mower	£500
West Lancashire Pensioners Forum – Anniversary meal for members	£300
North Meols Nifty 50's Sports and Leisure Club (West Lancashire) – Christmas Lunch	£400
Read Cricket and Bowling Club (Burnley) – Bowling shelters	£200
Thanet Residents Association (West Lancashire) – TV and Wall mount for health and fitness DVD's	£415
Longton Over 50's Lunch Club (South Ribble) – Running cost and day trips out	£200
Divine Days Community Arts (West Lancashire) – Craft materials and room hire	£350
Twirlys Computer Group (West Lancashire) – Three new laptops for the pensioners computer group	£477
St Chad's Bowling Section (Chorley) – improvements to the green guttering and seating area	£300
West Skelmersdale Pensioners Social Club – (West Lancashire) Floor mats for the new dart board area	£250
Hyndburn Over 50's Forum – Costs of speakers for monthly meetings	£300
Crawshawbooth Over 50's Lunch Club – Coach for Christmas party	£475
Gt Eccleston Over 60's (Preston) – Room rental costs for the whist/dominoes nights	£375
Whittle-le-Woods Women's Group (Chorley) – Cost of speakers for their monthly meetings	£300
The Memory Café (South Ribble) – Day trips for their members	£200
New Longton Bowling Club (South Ribble) – replacement Lawn Mower	£500
Friends for You - Befrienders Group (Chorley) – Day trip for members	£360
Fulwood Over 50's Keep Fit Group (Preston) – Christmas Meal	£300
Kingsfold Methodist Tuesday Fellowship (Preston) – Christmas Meal	£300
Tender Nursing Overnight Care (Preston) – Produce and distribute leaflets	£200
Longridge and North Preston Rotary Club – Old Folks event 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	£200
A59 Friendship Club (Chorley) – New website and encapsulated posters	£200
50+ Assembly Group (Lancashire) – Advertisement banners and leaflets	£540
Hilldale Community Association (West Lancashire) – Ben for the older residents Group	£241
Age Consulting (Lancashire) – annual subscription and refreshments at meetings	£632
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>	<b>£10,035</b>