

Champion for Older People

Report on Expenditure from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

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.

This is my second year in the role as Lancashire County Council's Champion for Older People. The role 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 is 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 that 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 opportunities to develop new skills and make new friends. This all contributes to a good quality of life and ensures that they do not 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 a day! This point was driven home to me when I attended the Campaign to End Loneliness Conference last year.

Thankfully, in Lancashire there are numerous groups providing activities to people over 55 years. The groups that I have visited during the year total thirty one and have included the A59 Club, supporting widows and widowers in central Lancashire, TOFFS (The Over Fifty Fives) Bowling Club in Walton le Dale, Seasons Luncheon Clubs in Longton and Preston, the Rainbow Centre in Morecambe, Seniors Together in Rossendale, the St Anne's Monday Club in Ormskirk and groups established with a Lancashire wide remit such as Singing for the Brain and Men in Sheds. The aforementioned is naming only a few but gives a flavour of the diversity of what's on offer.

Alongside visits to groups, I have attended twenty two events across the County fulfilling my role as Champion for Older People. Examples of these are the Travel for Life Senior Road Users Conferences, the Launch of the Age Concern Virtual Dementia Bus, a celebration of Black History Month and the West Lancashire Health and Wellbeing event. I have supported the Postcards for Kindness and the Festive Cards for the holiday season initiatives being pleased to formally launch the latter at Broadfield House in Leyland.

As 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 fund 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 press releases and my efforts promoting the fund, forty two groups have received grants this year totalling £10,000.

The first grant was paid to Stonemoor Bottom Residents Group and the last to the Shrine of St Walburgh's Church. As in the previous year the fund was over subscribed so four applications have been carried over into 2019/2020. I cannot emphasise enough just how important this fund is to Older People across the County, for whom just a little bit of money, the average grant being £250, can make a major difference to the work that they want to do and the lives of the people they support.

I have attended meetings of the North West Elected Member Champions for Older People Network, a forum where Champions from across the region can share learning and good practice. I have also participated in the meetings of the Lancashire 50+ Assembly, the umbrella body for the many other forums for older people across Lancashire. Forums are well established in East Lancashire, Fylde, Hyndburn, Lancaster and Morecambe, Pendle, Preston, West Lancashire and Wyre. They are a great way for people to engage in service and policy development and many have formed special interest groups, focusing on transport and home care as examples.

In recognition of the International Day of Older People, the LCC Chairman and I hosted a reception for Older People at County Hall in November to celebrate the work of groups mentioned in this report. Over 100 people attended all with the mindset that being older in Lancashire should mean a person has an active fulfilling life and if their choice participating in things that interest them.

The final months of this financial year have seen me visiting a number of care homes starting with three in the Garstang area and one in Leyland. In March I also spent a day in Rossendale meeting members of the faith community and having round table discussions with some of the Young at Heart Group, the Rossendale Memory Choir, Haslingden Community Link and the Rotary Club of Rossendale.

I have welcomed having the ear of senior decision makers in our Authority. I regularly brief the Leader, Deputy Leaders and Cabinet Members, in particular the members for 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 shaping of services in the future.

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

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

Schedule of Expenditure for 2018/19

County Councillor Joan Burrows – Champion for Older People	
Applicant	Amount of Grant
Refreshments for the Older Peoples Champion Network North West meeting 23 January 2018 and Annual subscription fees	£344
Stonemoor Bottom Residents Group – Day trip to the Lake District	£500
St Paul's Church Farington Moss Luncheon Club – New cooker and water heater	£600
St Anne's Monday Club – Entertainment costs	£200
Life Long Song – rental costs and new instruments	£250
Toffs Over Fifty Fives – Room hire and buffet costs for bowling competition days	£300
Lostock Hall Friendship Group – Catering costs at the national volunteer week	£200
Helping Hands – Events and entertainment costs	£300
Preston and District Multiple Sclerosis Society – Christmas Party	£250
New Age Fitness – Exercise equipment/room hire	£300
Longton Over Fifties Luncheon Group – cost of lunches and guest speakers	£200
Brindle Over 55's – cost of guest speakers and entertainment costs	£300
Preston and District Older People's Forum – Cost of meetings, bowling and social events	£350
Parbold Unlimited – Festival workshop for over 50's	£250
South Ribble Pensioners Association – Maintenance of website and issuing newsletters	£170
Lunch and Laughter Group – Day trips and monthly meetings	£200
Cambridge St Methodist Church on behalf of Double Niners – Pensioners Christmas party	£100
Hyndburn Stepping Out – Replace tee shirts and polo shirts	£220
North Meols Nifty 50's Sports and Leisure Club – Barn dance and Jacobs join	£200
Age Concern Central Lancashire – Intergeneration pop concert 19 October 2018	£300
Guru Nanak Gurdwara Cultural Recreational Centre – Interpretation board	£200
Carers Link Lancashire – DDA compliant aluminium doors	£500
Lancashire Linus – materials for quilts and blankets	£200
Thanet Residents Association – Christmas lunch	£400
New Longton Over 60's Mens Club – Re-cover and cushion snooker table	£400
Gt Eccleston Over 60's – Annual Christmas dinner	£200
Refreshments for the North West Annual General Older People's Meeting 23 October 2018	£381
Dream Team Singers – Buffet food and gifts for Christmas party	£200
Find a Friend Christmas Dinner – Hire of church hall	£90

Twirlys Computer Group – Computer/printer equipment	£250
Stonemoor Bottom Residents Group – Theatre trip and afternoon tea	£300
Coal Clough Lane Community Association – food and drink for Christmas party	£200
Cherry Fold Trust/Rosehill Luncheon Club – Christmas presents for elderly	£72
Middlesex Avenue Luncheon Club – New freezer	£100
Hapton Over 50's Luncheon Club – Christmas party	£100
Lowerhouse Lodges/Greenbrook Luncheon Club – Bain Marie and food mixer	£125
Rosehill and Howarth Fold incorporating Heally Heights – Christmas dinner	£100
A59 Club – Annual website subscription fees	£100
Moss Side Community Forum – Christmas party	£200
Longridge and North Preston Rotary Club – Christmas party	£150
Leyland Fire Station – Refreshments for Soup'er Day 8 December 2018	£50
Shrine of St Walburgh Church – Refreshments for seniors lunch on 17 March 2019	£148
TOTAL SPENT	£10,000