

OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPION NETWORK

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Summary: Presents information on the Older Peoples Champion Network

Recommendation: To consider possible representation by an elected Member on the Older People's Champion Network

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Councillor Jeanette Williams attended a meeting of the North West Older People's Champion Network at Rossendale BC recently following a piece on the Network by Mike Wharton of NWEO which appeared in our Member Development newsletter recently.

2. OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPION NETWORK

2.1 The Champions Network has been established recently by Better Government for Older People North West, a Cabinet Office and DWP sponsored initiative aimed at securing a better deal for older people (over 50's) in the way public services are delivered. The Network consists of elected Member Champions from (potentially) all 46 authorities in the North West region. The purpose of the network is to provide mutual support based on a cross-party approach to the challenges these elected members face. In addition to mutual support the purpose of the network is to develop good practice and through good practice ensure that Local Authorities have effective older people's champions to meet the needs of the 50 plus generation. The Vision, Objectives and guide Role Definition of the Champion are attached for information.

2.2 NWEO have become involved in the Network through developing a programme of e-learning for Champions, based on Modern Councillor, which will be rolled out across the network through the Member Gateway. Mike Wharton, the Gateway Advisor has taken a leading role in this.

2.3 Current representation on the network is mainly from Manchester and Merseyside authorities. There is one from Cumbria County Council but none from the Cumbria districts.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The Panel is asked to form an initial view on whether Council representation should be explored further. If so it will be necessary to consider in consultation with the Executive how the role would fit within existing structures, i.e. within an existing executive Portfolio or separately.

3.2 The Regional Manager for Better Government for Older People has offered to attend a meeting with us to help clarify a way forward, and the Panel is recommended to accept this as a useful first step.

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	None
Impact on Sustainability	None
Impact on Rural Proofing	None
Health and Safety Implications	None
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	None
Children and Young Persons Implications	None
Human Rights Act Implications	None
Monitoring Officer comments	
S. 151 Officer comments	

**List of Appendices: Appendix A – Older People’s Champions Network – Northwest of England
Vision Statement and Objectives.
Appendix B – Role Definition**

List of Background Documents:

List of Consultees: Head of Legal & Democratic Services; Head of Finance &
Business Development; Human Resources Manager;
Portfolio Holder, Resources & Local Democracy