

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

Local Authority Elected Member

Older Peoples Champions Network

North West of England

Vision Statement and Objectives

Vision Statement

Our vision is to have a thriving and sustainable network of Local Authority Elected Members working in the North West of England who have been formally mandated by their Local Authorities to act as a focus for older people (50 plus) in each authorities operational, planning and development processes across all functions and partnerships.

Our vision is to ensure older people (50 plus) are at the heart of all local authority activity that impacts upon their lives. We are committed to the celebration of age and creating opportunities for our citizens to be valued as they age and have age positive services and opportunities to meet their needs and aspirations.

Our values reflect and support Better Government for Older Peoples values and principles of engagement and participation of older people.

Our vision supports the partnership with Better Government for Older People North West Region and the Older Peoples Advisory Group North West Region

Objectives

To provide a mutual non party political support and development network for Local Authority Elected Member Older Peoples Champions in First and Second Tier Local Authorities in the North West

Identify, Promote and Contribute to the development of good practice models from local authorities who are responding to the North West Ageing Society.

Actively promote the role of Local Authority Elected Members who hold the position of Older Peoples Champions and contribute to the development of

models of good practice together with a strong network that provides opportunities for peer mentoring.

Actively strengthening the role of Local Authority Elected Member Champions by development, promotion and publication of models of good practice for champions.

Actively promote and strengthen the role of the Local Authority Elected Member Champions within each local authority with appropriate status and support.

Create opportunities for work with Regional Agencies and Central Government that influences policy development and policy implementation built upon good practice models from the North West

Identify and create opportunities to have the role of Local Authority Elected Member Older Peoples Champions recognised and embedded in Regional and National Government Agency planning and development processes.

Network Members

Local Authority Elected Members
Older Peoples Champions
North West of England

Approved March 2006

Role Definition

Older Peoples Champion

To assist the Leader and appropriate Portfolio Holders by advising on service issues which support and encourage active, independent and healthy lives for older people and to raise the profile of older people and their needs in the development of policy across all areas of the council.

- 1 Acting as a Spokesperson to promote the positive aspects of the Council's work with Older People.
- 2 Encouraging Older People to play a fuller role in shaping the policies of the Council and in designing its services.
- 3 Working to promote positive images of Older People as citizens, and to combat stereotyping and age discrimination.
- 4 Forging and maintaining links locally with Older People's Networks and nationally with the Better Government for Older People initiative.
- 5 Preparing an annual programme of work and reporting on progress annually to cabinet.

This Role Definition has been recommended and supported by the Local Authority Elected Member Older Peoples Champion North West Network together with Better Government for Older People