

## **Bury Older People's Network (BOPN)**

**9<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

### **Bury Unitarian Church**

Attending	Jo Mawdsley (chair); David Barnes (Bury VCFA – action notes); Steph Chesney-Bryce (Age UK); Gill James (Redvales); Jean Pound (Tuesday Memory Club); Trish Ribchester (Greenmount Village C&C); Rhoda Myers (resident); Pauline Smith (GMOPN, Bury LGBTQ+ Forum, Pride in Ageing); Julie Southworth (Greenmount Village C&C); Ania Stark-Ketcher (Age UK); Jan Wiczkowski; Deb Yates (Bury Council)
Apologies	Stephanie Boyd; Chris Darrock; Gabrielle Royle; Steven Greason; Carol Kemp; Jane Lees; Hilary McColl; Shirley Waller

### **Ageing Well Strategy**

Deb Yates from Bury Council presented an early draft of the Ageing Well Strategy. The BOPN is the first group to be consulted on this after the initial presentation to the council leadership and the network appreciated this opportunity. Ms Yates said that there would be further consultation opportunities and welcomed the initial feedback from the network members in attendance, and further feedback would be well received. Ms Yates made the following points:

- The key priorities are very much informed by the network's own priorities identified at the January 2025 review session.
- As the strategy is part of the integrated service delivery approach, it does include content relating to health services too, not just local authority services.
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- The AWS will be the overarching strategy; underneath it will sit several other strategies/policies including the Extra Care Strategy, the Intermediate Care Strategy, the Dementia Strategy and the Carer's Strategy. Therefore the AWS does not set out specific operational arrangements and the supporting documents will do that for their respective areas.
- The AWS incorporates the Living Well approach.
- It will be refreshed on an annual basis.
- There will be full consultation in Autumn 2025.

In discussion, the meeting raised the following:

- The question of transport and travel for older people, especially Ring & Ride and a proposal was made that the network should seek a meeting with the Mayor of Greater Manchester or a senior representative to discuss this further.
- The proposal for there to be a survey of older people which has kindly been facilitated in preparation by Steph Boyd. The chair of the network is liaising with Council officers on the wording of the questions and the extent of its distribution.
- The network recognises that council budgets are very tight so the strategy will be very important especially in the light of the projected 35% increase in the population of over-65 year-olds in the next few years.
- The AWS also contains useful data, for example noting that there has been a decrease in life expectancy for men and an increase for women.

**ACTION:** The chair thanked Ms Yates for the very helpful presentation of the strategy and noted that members can consider the content of the strategy for further comment.

## **Age Without Limits Event Review**

This event took place at the Green Community Café in Clarence Park on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Feedback has been very positive for the venue, the hospitality by staff and volunteers of the Ageing in Place project and the range of activities presented. The challenge was to raise awareness about ageism as part of the national campaign day and the learning from this event will be held in good stead for next year when there should be increased time for preparation and, crucially, increased publicity to reach a wider audience which this event deserved. The meeting commended the organising group, specifically Jo Mawdsley, Pauline Smith and Steven Greason for their work on making the event such a success. An aspect that was noted was that this was effectively an event organised by older people for all generations and Ms Smith pointed out that this fits very well with the Age Matters policy approach to promote multi-generational activities. The Ageing in Place pathfinder will build on the success of this event by presenting additional activity days in the forthcoming months.

**ACTION:** Planning will now commence for next year's event and a working group will be established to do this planning. Consideration will be given to the aim of the event and consider inviting additional groups etc to participate, such as the social prescribers. The results from the survey mentioned above may assist in this planning.

## **Scheduling guests and facebook posts**

The network meetings benefit from attendance by a range of practitioners, policy-makers and managers as guest presenters on relevant issues. Also the BOPN will soon have a dedicated facebook page, linked to the existing VCFA page, with additional scope to promote relevant events for the network members and to the wider community.



## **ACTIONS:**

- A draft schedule of guest speakers will be compiled for BOPN members to consider
- A small number of facebook posts will be assembled by David Barnes ahead of launch of the page to ensure that there is at least one post per week to keep the page fresh and worth visiting. BOPN members are invited to send to David, content for such posts.

## **Any other business**

BOPN terms of reference and welcome letter.

**ACTION:** This being revised and the revised draft version will be sent to BOPN ahead of the next network meeting where it will be on the agenda for approval.

## **Next Meeting**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 11am Bury Unitarian Church.