



## Bury Older People’s Network

**Date:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
**Time:** 11 – 12.30pm  
**Venue:** Bury Unitarian Church, Bank St, Bury BL9 0DN

### Attendees:

Joanna Mawdsley (JM) – Chair  
 Shirley Waller (SW) - Healthwatch  
 Sarah Thornton (ST) – VCFA  
 Jan Wiczowski (JW)  
 Rhoda Myers (RM)

### Apologies

Stephanie Boyd – Bury Council	Mark O’Brien
Marie Wilson – VCFA	Gary Hardman
Dorothy Cowen	Julie Southworth
Lucette Tucker	Jayne Harrison
Brian Williams	Gillian Stainthorpe
Gill James	Pauline Smith

### Agenda

Item	Action
<p><b>Welcome, introductions and apologies.</b>            Meeting relocated to the Bury VCFA office due to not being able to get into the building. Although we waited until 11.15am and left a note on the door, we apologise if any members tried to go to the Unitarian Church and missed the meeting – please ring Sarah Thornton on 07935755029 if you need to contact.</p>	<p>Members telephone Sarah Thornton when needed</p> <p>ST to contact Venue for future bookings</p>
<p><b>Minutes &amp; Matters Arising from the last meeting</b>            JM noticed TFGM have not come back with responses to the questions asked in the meeting.</p> <p>ST – Questions have been sent to TFGM and we await response.</p>	<p>ST to chase TFGM and to add new query from this meeting</p>

<p>JM mentioned the minutes stated the buses use the best specifications – but who decides those specifications?</p> <p>The new buses (23 registration) have no grab rails on one third of the bus at the front and this is very dangerous for less mobile people. This was noticed on the 471 bus. There is also a large step which makes the rest of the bus less accessible to less mobile passengers.</p> <p>Single decker buses with a 24 registration (route 467 and 468) have grab rails and wheelchair base on both sides of the bus. The seating is for 37 passengers and 53 standing with no wheelchairs. The wheelchair area is enough for 8 people to stand. If there are two wheelchairs, there is enough space for 37 standing.</p> <p>Driver training could mitigate some of this issue – has this been considered?</p>	
<p><b>Volunteering in Bury</b>  Adam Fitton is the new Volunteer Development Officer (replacing Tony Foster) and gave information about volunteering in Bury.</p> <p>He explained ESV – which means employers giving employed days off to staff to allow them to experience volunteering as part of their social value commitments.</p> <p>At present, there are two ways volunteering opportunities are advertised. The volunteer bank is the ‘traditional volunteering’ route where you stay for a while. We realise this is a longer process, but it is making sure the relevant checks are made. We also have a padlet page for single day events. These are online and we realise this can cause a barrier.</p> <p>The VCFA want to offer drop in sessions across the borough to give people the opportunities to learn about volunteering. We are also open to ideas on how to make advertising volunteering opportunities easier for you.</p>	<p>ALL - Speak to AF if you have any questions about volunteering</p>

<p>If needed, you can call VCFA to help with advertising your volunteering opportunities. The office number is 0161 518 5550 and Adam's mobile is 07596 324972.</p> <p>Age seems to be a barrier for both young people and older people, which is a shame as they have the most time to give. There should be guidelines related to risk assessments. If you feel there are any barriers, please speak to Adam.</p> <p>JW – What is the situation on DBS checks?  AF – We are looking into that. There is specific guidance and it can be some people who do not actually need a DBS check. At the moment, you can contact Salford CVS for DBS checks and see if it is necessary - <a href="#">DBS checks   Salford CVS</a></p> <p>JM – Some people don't think about volunteering  Shirley – You need to stress the benefits of volunteering.</p> <p>RM – Where can I find this information?  AF – We have a volunteer bulletin, which is much smaller than previously – it is two pages which highlights certain opportunities. Some opportunities at the moment are related to volunteering in the following settings - day care, Bury Adult Learning Centre, Charity tin collections, Roch Valley Radio presenter, dropping leaflets, community café based.</p> <p>JM – It would be useful for opportunities to be advertised at the Millgate.</p>	<p>ST to pass on idea to AF</p>
<p><b>Bury Cancer Care Centre</b>  Jan Katana needed to cancel due to lack of staff. It was decided to defer until potentially September due to restructure and lack of capacity</p>	<p>JW to rearrange a time in September</p>
<p><b>Prestwich Clough Day– 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>  ST – We have ordered a table and two chairs at the event. We have pens, postcards and a banner. Who will collect this?</p>	<p>JW to arrange a time to collect items from Bury VCFA before the event.</p>

<p>JW – What time can we get to the venue and where are we sitting? Can we use clipboards?</p>	<p>ST to find out the details of the event and inform JW/JM</p>
<p><b>Drop in Day at the Green Café</b>  Next meeting will be at the Green Café to promote the BOPN between 10-2pm.</p> <p>Anyone who receives a raffle ticket or BOPN postcard can go to the café and get some cake and a hot drink.  Sarah Thornton and Stephanie Boyd will be present to support the day.</p> <p>Please come and support this event in anyway you can.</p>	
<p><b>People Power Project</b>  JM –A report on the final session of this project has been deferred due to the late start and the small number of people present. The launch of National Influencers is on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024. JM will feedback at the July meeting.</p>	
<p><b>Any other Business</b>  SW – I attended the Dementia Steering Group and noticed they have suggested a member of the BOPN should be added. Has the group approached BOPN?</p> <p>Distribution list – Members did not recognize some of the names on the distribution list. It was suggested to ask the members on the distribution list if they are still interested in attending the meetings.</p> <p>SW – There are three NHS dentists taking patients in Bury at the moment - Market Place in Ramsbottom, Knowsley, Knowsley St and My Dentist (not sure which one). (<a href="http://www.nhs.uk">Dentists near Bury - NHS (www.nhs.uk)</a>)</p>	<p>ST to check with Marie for any information</p> <p>ST to send an email to the distribution list to check if they will attend in future</p>
<p><b>Next meeting date</b></p> <p>12<sup>th</sup> June at The Green Community Cafe, Clarence Park, Walmersley Road, Bury BL9 5DH</p>	