

OPSP Network meeting 16th Jan at All Souls Clubhouse

Attended: see attached sheet **Apologies:** Kate Gielgud; Tess Jelen

A. Transport.

Anna Porta from Westway Community Transport introduced the various services available in Westminster for older people who are less able to access public transport.

1. Volunteer Car Service <https://westwayct.org.uk/services/westminster-residents/volunteer-cars-westminster/> . This is a one-to-one car service driven by volunteers, who use their cars or one of our designated accessible vehicles. Journeys cannot be guaranteed until a volunteer is found willing to drive. Cost - £1.10 per mile. Need to register membership first via downloadable form.
 - a. Days vary as to how busy they are, so liaise with Booking Coordinator if you don't need a particular day.
 - b. A doorstep service, unless parking is prohibitive.
 - c. Can also make regular booking.
 - d. All dependent on availability of volunteer – important to recognise this and manage expectation. E.g. service only guaranteed from a day or two before booking.
2. Shopper service: <https://westwayct.org.uk/services/westminster-residents/westminster-shopper-service/> Passengers share the journey in minibus with other members of Westway CT. Members are collected from home, taken to a supermarket and given time to shop, then brought back home. Picks people up from the same area, so passengers get to know people living close to them. There is a weekly timetable. Membership of Westway needed; free service; available if individual finds public transport difficult or impossible.
3. Dial-a-ride: is a membership scheme run by Transport for London (TfL) which provides a bookable door-to-door minibus service free of charge for disabled and older people who have difficulties accessing public transport. <http://www.transportforall.org.uk/d2d/dar/> .
 - a. Application is complicated and requires letter from GP.
 - b. Applications are vetted, not automatic on self-referral.
4. Taxicard The London Taxicard scheme provides subsidised door to door journeys in licensed taxis and private hire vehicles for London residents who have serious mobility or visual impairments. <https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/taxicard/frequently-asked-questions>
 - a. Eligibility is complex, vetted by disability and by income.
 - b. Tends to be used for hospital trips (hospital patient transport much higher need threshold now).
 - c. Card value limited, gets used up relatively fast.
5. Groups can hire a minibus from Westway CT – this is much cheaper if the group provides the driver (WCT training to drive minibus is available <https://westwayct.org.uk/services/training/drive-time-project/>)

Anna drew attention to the advisability of planning a project's funding to include transport costs within application to funders. Please contact her if you are considering using Westway CT as a partner in this - annaporta@westway.org.uk tel: 020 8964 4928.

B. General Information Share.

Anna, Westway Community Transport – CT now have mobility scooters for hire (£2.50 half day; £5 full day), will train users; can deliver to home but that costs.

Caz, Abbey Centre – older users responded to a survey, and activities now reflect those results. Arts and crafts; outings monthly; dancing and singing.

Ralph, Westminster Senior Citizens Forum – open to older people living in Westminster and their guests; 5 meetings per year on topical/interesting subjects, currently held at WCC in Strand. Also a lobbying group.

Melva and Lisa, Advocacy Project Older Adults team – provision for over 65s, mainly with dementia or mental health needs, referred mainly by social workers or through outreach to care homes.

Claire G, Open Age – South Westminster - based in Churchill hub, activities in 8 locations for over 50s; usual full activity programme. Free will service coming up Weds 28th Feb 1-3pm. New activity – men only yoga.

Maria, Spice Time Credits - popular activities for spending time credits – often in groups – include the new Clipper and Tower of London trip. Maria always happy to hear of new suggestions for activities for spending Time Credits.

Raksha, Octavia Older People's Befriending service – individual friendships, often building into group meet-ups; also trips and events. Getting a larger number of referrals of older people with greater needs.

Louise, Age UK Westminster Befriending – Age UK advice and info services available across borough; debt counsellor starting soon. Ongoing drama, digital and older volunteers projects. Befriending also getting more referrals with complex needs.

Natalie, One Westminster Older People's Befriending – runs 45 befriending matches, self or professional referrals. Need volunteers for west side of borough.

David, St John's Wood Neighbourhood Care – runs a befriending project – currently also has plenty of volunteers available, contact 020 7586 5153. Have a minibus – so plenty of outings, concerts and restaurants. Run a Christmas dinner on Christmas Day – slightly undersubscribed last year. Also run a short respite for 24-hour partner-carers.

Sally, All Souls Clubhouse – runs a visiting and befriending scheme and Wednesday lunch club (3-course lunch plus activities). Volunteers needed for befriending scheme.

- C. Complex needs in Befriending and sharing training resources** – the information share brought out this need for organisations to work together. Emma will coordinate a meeting of those interested, opening invitation across Network to anyone else facing these issues.

D. NEXT MEETING OF THE OLDER PEOPLE'S SERVICE PROVIDER NETWORK:

Topic will be Integration of Health and Social Care Services – local speaker and discussion. Date and time tbc.

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