

KNOX ACTIVE AGEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

27 May 2020

Time: 5.00 to 6.45pm

Zoom meeting

As this Advisory Committee has been established by Council and includes at least one Councillor and a staff member it is an Assembly of Councillors in accordance with the Local Government Act.

Councillors and staff are required to declare any conflict of interest that they may have in regards to any item discussed that is intended or likely to be the subject of a report to Council or a decision of an officer under delegation. In declaring a conflict of interest the Councillor or staff member must leave the meeting whilst the matter is being discussed. A definition of conflict of interest in accordance with the Local Government Act is provided in the Active Ageing Advisory Committee Folder.

Community representatives on the Committee are not subject to these provisions; however they are required under their terms of appointment to declare any conflicts of interest that may arise for them from time to time. It will be a matter for the Chair to determine if the community representative is required to leave the meeting whilst a particular matter that is subject to a conflict of interest is being discussed.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Attendees – Eddie Atacador, Sharon Buxton, Evelin Martin, Sonja Pedell, Bronwyn Stephen, Cr. Mortimore, Cr. Seymour, Judy Chalkley, Stuart Ireland, Linda Keenahan, Andrew Marshall, Michelle Penney.

Apologies – Catherine Balaz, Rachel Bast, Lynda Carroll, Rita Lang, Edmond Wong.

2. Conflict of Interest Declaration

None were declared.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved by Evelin Martin / Seconded by Eddie Atacador.

4. Items for Discussion

4.1 Resilience and Recovery – COVID-19 – Developing a joint approach (30 mins)

Facilitator: Andrew Marshall, Coordinator Emergency Management, KCC

Andrew provided an overview of the National Recovery Principles, Emergency Management Structures and Roles, and key considerations for, and early actions taken by, Council.

Some important key takeaway messages:

- We are still in the pandemic.
- The earlier we start having recovery conversations the more informed and effective our recovery planning and activities will be.
- This is only the start of the discussion with groups such as Advisory Committees – this is going to be an ongoing dialogue to contribute insights, ideas and suggestions to support recovery efforts.
- We want to build opportunities for resilience NOT reliance – at an individual, family and whole of community level.
- We want to be thinking and planning from an outcomes perspective for each of the four environments – Social, Economic, Built, and Natural.
- We need to acknowledge that Council can only control and influence certain parts of recovery planning/ processes, but can and will strongly advocate to State and Federal Governments to strengthen and improve planning/ processes where needed.

Committee member comments and responses:

- Sonja made the observation that it is important during the response and recovery phases to ensure prevention is front and centre of our thinking and responses.
- Michelle posed the question of how do Councils identify – what are the signs and indicators - when a city/community is ready to begin the recovery journey. Andrew noted that this is a complex area, but through his previous experience with the 2009 Victorian Bushfires along with the latest national and international research and evidence, one sign/indicator is when community members start to voice their ideas and suggestions for what is needed and how recover could/should occur.
- Sharon commented that she and Knox U3A are relying on Council for guidance and information on facility opening, cleaning requirements, physical distancing (referencing her conversations with the AA&DS Team Leader Active Communities re: the re-opening and use of facilities).
Judy responded by saying that AA&DS is working closely with the relevant Council teams to prepare a guidance document and will share as soon as possible.
ACTION: Judy / Stuart to circulate guidance document to Committee members once finalised and approved.
- Eddie commented that he too is relying on ‘Government’, but is unclear where to get specific information in relation to the Knox Community Chess Enthusiasts Club.
ACTION: Judy / Stuart to follow up with Samantha Mazer re: Westfield Knox and what information is being provided to tenants/users of the Centre.
- Evelin commented that Residents at Martin Luther Home seem to be coping better than their families. However, many practices have had to change:
 - no more signing in by hand (is now done via tablet)
 - visitors must have had the flu vaccination if wanting to visit
 - visitors now have to book in advance prior to attendance
 - families only being able to visit once a week in order to facilitate fair and equitable visitations and to maintain social/ physical distancing requirements
- Bronwyn commented that her clients are scared and fearful – they already have limited opportunities for touch and are now unable to – and that we are going to see a significant increase in mental health issues amongst our most vulnerable.

ACTION: Stuart to circulate a copy of the Resilience and Recovery – COVID-19 – Developing a joint approach PowerPoint presentation to KAAAC members for their information.

ACTION: KAAAC members to review presentation and provide feedback/ additional feedback to Stuart on the following questions by Friday 26 June:

- What is negotiable; what is non-negotiable?
- Where do you get information?
- What information do you need?
- How can we engage your sector's community leaders in the recovery planning?
- Committee structure (community leaders & networks) ideas

4.2 Active Ageing & Disability Services inc. Specialised Access Team Update (20 mins)

Facilitators: Judy Chalkley, Manager Active Ageing & Disability Services, KCC AA&DS
Michelle Penney, Coordinator Specialised Access Team, KCC AA&DS

Michelle provided an overview of the SAT, a summary breakdown of the referrals received over the past two months, a few case studies, key insights, and planned next steps.

Committee member comments and responses:

- Cr. Mortimore suggested that Community Newspapers would be a good place to promote the SAT and to share some of the case studies to help raise awareness and care of our community members experiencing vulnerabilities and social isolation.
ACTION: Michelle to follow up with the internal Communications team to explore what promotional opportunities and mechanism exist.
- Cr. Seymour highlighted that even though the referral numbers reflect the demographic of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme client group, they do not reflect the broader Knox population. Concerning is the low numbers of males, particularly when we know older males are less likely to seek services or supports. Reaching and engaging older males in our community continues to be a challenge for Council, Sector and Community groups and organisations. There is an opportunity to explore and potentially undertake a collaborative project that seeks to engage older men and supports them to connect or remain connected with family and friends:
 - Through an 'experience' room at either a Neighbourhood House or other Council building
 - With that room having a range of technological devices present to facilitate increased reach and connection/s
 - A model that is supported by in-person coaching and technical support
- Bronwyn made reference to Neighbourhood Houses offering some of these types of courses (e.g. Computers for Blokes), but that these could be built or expanded on.

ACTION: Stuart to circulate a copy of the Impact of COVID-19 on the SAT PowerPoint presentation to KAAAC members for their information.

ACTION: Judy to set up a meeting with Cr. Seymour and Stuart to further progress.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting (Actions)

- 5.1** Carrington Park – Sharon spoke to the fact that Knox U3A have recently submitted a series of mapping documents to Council that show the range of activities undertaken across the three facilities in which they have a presence across the municipality. Both Sharon and Catherine then spoke to the current use of Carrington Park by Knox U3A members, and the potential for increased use – particularly for activities that involve physical activity/exercise. Judy flagged that we can speak to Council’s Leisure team to explore interim possibilities.
ACTION: Judy/ Stuart to follow up with Council’s Leisure team and advise Sharon/ Catherine as to what usage options are available in the short term.
ACTION: Judy/Stuart to arrange for Leisure staff to come to our next KAAAC meeting.
UPDATE: Due to this meeting’s agenda being full, Leisure staff have been invited to attend our July meeting.
- 5.2** Basketball at Carrington Park
ACTION: In progress - Rachel advised Falcons are still keen. Rachel to email Sharon to discuss.
UPDATE: To be reported on at next meeting.
- 5.3** Key Priorities for 2020
ACTION: Judy/Stuart to brainstorm a range of communications/speakers.
UPDATE: to be reported on at next meeting.
- 5.4** Revisit our terminology and the use of language we are using in our brochures/flyers to avoid offending anyone. Lynda has participated in many community engagements and she shared most don’t like the word ‘seniors’ and ‘people over 65’.
ACTION: Judy/Stuart to consider doing a survey to determine like/dislike of the language and people’s perception. **UPDATE: This will be picked up and addressed as part of the 2020 AA&DS Client Survey which will include a section on ‘Age Friendly Cities’ and have a number of questions relating to the Age Friendly City domains and measures/indicators. There will of course be a stand-alone Age Friendly Cities survey for the rest of the community which will be more comprehensive in nature.**
- 5.5** Age Friendly Cities - discussion around where people are going to live when they can’t maintain their property/garden and are trying to avoid moving into a retirement village. Cr. Seymour advised there are some developments in the Maroondah area (Market Forces) doing this and being advertised as living for the over 55’s.
ACTION: Judy/Stuart to explore/look at options.
UPDATE: To be followed up and reported on at next meeting.
- 5.6** On Demand Bus – reviewing our stats and consider options.
ACTION: Judy/Stuart to update the group when known.
UPDATE: For the period August to December 2019, a total of 71 people boarded the service, with just over one in three being dropped at Westfield Knox and one in two being dropped at home. There were no people dropped at the Angliss Hospital or the Wantirna Health precinct. For the period January to March 2020, a total of 59 people boarded the service, with almost identical destinations and representation. Overall, usage slightly increased, but still remains very low. Mid-morning and early afternoon runs continue to be the most popular. The Community Transport team is in the process of reviewing the communications strategy for the trial including the distribution and take up of promotional materials. The Communications team is continuing to promote the service through existing Council channels and platforms.

- 5.7 Emergency Management – Resilience and Recovery – COVID-19
ACTION: Judy/Stuart to arrange for Andrew Marshall from Emergency Management to attend our next KAAAC meeting. UPDATE: Complete.
- 5.8 Framework to support localised or specific groups that have difficulty forming or meeting e.g. Asian seniors who are not yet Australian citizens. We need to consider small communities with language barriers and support them to secure venues. Rita suggested the use of churches.
ACTION: Judy/Stuart to follow up. UPDATE: To be followed up and reported on at next meeting.

6. Other Business

- 6.1 **Emerging issues from Committee Members** – round the room discussion
- Cr. Seymour gave a shout out to Linda Keenahan and the Bright Ideas Network for all of the work they have done/are doing to engage and support the community during this pandemic. In particular, the move to online event and activities delivery.
 - Judy made mention of the Fridge Magnet that AA&DS recently developed and have sent to all of our CHSP clients. It has been incredibly well received by our clients.
ACTION: Judy to follow up with Bronwyn, Sharon and Evelin re: the potential for the Fridge Magnet to be distributed to their clients and groups/organisations.
 - Cr. Seymour posed the question of what should be/is the most preferred and effective manner for conducting KAAAC meetings in the future, noting that many Council Committees are planning to either continue with virtual meetings or take a hybrid approach (e.g. every third meeting would be an in-person meeting).
 - ACTION: Stuart to pose the question to, and seek responses from, Committee members when circulating the meeting minutes. Committee members to respond and identify their preferred method of engagement.
- 6.2 **AA&DS Libraries project report** – Linda Keenahan (5 minutes)
- Due to a lack of time, this was not fully discussed.
ACTION: Stuart to add this item to the July meeting agenda.

7. Next meeting/s

**Knox Active Ageing Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday 22 July 2020, Time TBC**