

KNOX ACTIVE AGEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

30 September 2021

Time: 7.00 to 8.35pm

Meeting held via Zoom

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; Marilyn Beyer; Diana Bossio; Gary Cantwell; Marlene Franke; Lyn Maestri; Anne Sherrard; Cr. Nicole Seymour; Cr. Meagan Baker; Lana Harris; Kylie Johnson.

Apologies: Rachel Bast, Judith Mercieca

Resignation: Russel Anbiah, EACH

2. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflict of interest declared.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved by Gary, Seconded by Linda.

4. Items for Discussion

4.1 Advisory Committee Introductions – Two new members

Facilitator: Cr Nicole Seymour, Tirhatuan Ward

- The two new industry representatives were welcomed to the Committee:
 - Diana Bossio – Swinburne University
 - Marlene Franke – Martin Luther Homes

4.2 Elder Abuse Prevention

Facilitator: Jill Exon, Elder Abuse Prevention Coordinator, Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC)

- Jill provided an overview of elder abuse and ECLC's primary prevention framework to address the drivers/root causes of elder abuse
- ACTION: Kylie to share presentation slides with the Committee (see attached)

Key messages:

- Elder abuse is a form of family violence, typically caused by someone you know/trust
- There is no clear evidence of the prevalence of elder abuse (i.e. often unreported). The Australian Institute of Family Studies is expected to produce more data and insights later this year.
- Ageism is one of the key drivers of elder abuse. The World Health Organisation released its first global report on ageism outlining three strategies to reduce ageism: policy and law; educational activities; and intergenerational activities. These strategies are reflected in the primary prevention framework, and, in Council's Plan 2021-2025 as a key initiative with a number of specific actions contained within the Community Access and Support team's four-year business plan.
- The Preventing Abuse of Older People framework has brought together the primary prevention work being done in the East and is grounded in research from the Older People, Equity, Respect and Ageing (OPERA) project: [OPERA | Older People, Equity, Respect and Ageing \(eclc.org.au\)](#)
- The OPERA report - https://opera.eclc.org.au/uploads/general/OPERA-Report_Swinburne_PhaseII_FINAL.pdf - outlines three themes for action to prevent the manifestation of ageism: promote positive images and role models; identify and eliminate barriers to participation; and foster positive attitudes and behaviours towards ageing.
- Examples of ageism/elder abuse prevention work that Council has worked in partnership with ECLC includes the My Money Series; Eastern Metropolitan Region Councils' ageism communications campaign; and the Voices of over 55s exhibition.
- Some of the risk factors discussed include: caring pressures, rigid gender roles, financial dependence on partner, complex family relationships, and, individual shame/ embarrassment to ask for help.

4.3 Community Transport / On Demand Transport

Facilitators: Robbie Leslie, Coordinator Social Connections, KCC
Kevin Kelly, Program Lead Community Connections, KCC

- Robbie provided an overview of the *Innovative Community Transport Solutions project*, a review conducted by Arup. This project aimed to identify opportunities for private and community transport providers to improve community access to transport across the Eastern Metropolitan Partnership Region.
 - Key Roadmap recommendations include streamlining of resources/services, integrating a mobility approach, and increasing awareness/uptake of services.

- Robbie then provided an overview of the *Measuring Outcomes in Social Support and Transport Services project*, facilitated by the Eastern Sector Development Team. This project aims to develop an outcomes measurement tool which can be used by all services to help them understand if their service delivered is making a difference and to support the telling of a complete story when it comes to social support and transport.
- Kevin provided an overview of the recent Knox Community Transport service review:
 - Review findings and recommendations are currently being drafted. A summary will be shared with the Committee in the coming month.
 - Current bus usage has dropped to 10% of pre-pandemic figures. However it is important to note that during lockdowns, the buses can still do trips for shopping and medical appointments
 - The Community Transport Team are currently working on:
 - Creating ways to entice people back out into the community through bus outings once lockdown ends
 - Advocating to Westfield Knox for a dedicated community transport drop off/pick up zone for all community transport providers
 - Cr. Seymour suggested linking in with our Occupational Therapist to discuss the safety of clients returning to outings post lockdown due to immobility and potential deterioration in function
 - Lana advised that the Regional Assessment Service team are identifying people that may have a mobility issue and referring them to our occupational therapists/ (who can then refer on to Community Transport). However, there is high demand and long wait lists for occupational therapy due to limited funded resources.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

- 5.1 No business arising from previous meeting.

6. Other Business

- Linda is running a session on 1 October (International Day of Older Persons) called '*How to get older without getting old*' to provide the community with strategies to age positively. This event is part of the Knox Seniors Festival.
- Diana is working on the GOAT (greatest of all time) project with the Eastern Elder Abuse Network to collate a database of images, videos and short stories that disrupts the representation of older people as seen in the media. The project is looking for community champions interested in participating. See brochure attached and email Diana if interested.
- Gary has noticed that a lot of older people in the community people are struggling at the moment and it could take a long time to rebuild their confidence to emerge from lockdown. Hopefully bus trips and other activities can help with this.
- Cr. Seymour has starting hearing from community members about COVID and vaccinations being used as leverage over older family members to pressure/distance relationships. We need to be alert to the dialogue going around about mandatory vaccinations and be mindful of the language people are using in community settings.

- Lana's Short Term Support team are running two sessions to raise awareness on elder abuse as part of the 16 Days of Activism: Protecting your rights as you get older; and a Council staff session on elder abuse. Dates to be confirmed.

7. Next meeting

Knox Active Ageing Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday 18 November 2021, 7.00pm to 8.30pm via Zoom