

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE MEMBER CHAMPION FOR OVER 50's – 2018/19

I was appointed to the role of Champion for the Over 50's in May 2018 and have spent my first year going out into the community to meet with various groups and forums. It has been a pleasure to meet with so many different organisations and see first-hand the work that is taking place across the Borough I hope to build upon these foundations over the next twelve months and continue to assist wherever I can in raising awareness of issues that concern the Over 50's.

Inter- Generational Project

The Group started meeting in January 2017 and has since gone from strength to strength. Councillor Ciaran White (Champion for Young People) and I have continued to work with members of the Youth Parliament and the older participants. Our aim for the future is to extend the project into schools. It is well attested that children are at their most vulnerable to adverse influences when they make the transition from Primary School to Secondary School. At this critical time in their development, we hope that involvement with the Inter-generational Project may benefit children who might otherwise feel isolated and challenged.

BME Forum

I recently attended a very productive meeting of the Havering BME Forum at the Raphael's Restaurant Community Room and heard about forthcoming plans to celebrate the **Love of Commonwealth-Havering 2019** on October 5th

The BME Forum is particularly keen to address issues of cultural integration. As increasing numbers of new arrivals come to the Borough from diverse communities and inner city areas, there is often need of assistance from people with local knowledge. The Forum has therefore set up a series of committees to organise drop-in sessions and enlist the help of Food Banks and educational establishments in welcoming newcomers to Havering. It is an exciting initiative and with the right level of support will make a real difference to peoples' lives.

Havering Dementia Action Alliance

The Havering Over 50's Forum and Tapestry have joined together to make Hornchurch the first dementia friendly town in the Borough. Local Businesses are being encouraged to become dementia friends. For those that wish to progress, further training is available in London to become dementia champions.

So far, Carpetright, Pinney Talfourd Solicitors and the Queen's Theatre have all agreed to participate and it is hoped that the scheme will be extended to other organisations in the near future.

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL
HAVERING DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE**



If you would like further information please fill in the details below

Name: _____ Organisation: _____

Contact details: _____

and return the form to:-

Tom Lowe – Relationship Officer, Queen's Theatre Hornchurch, Tel: 01708 462349 or

Lucy Pattick – Marketing & Planning Manager, Tapestry Care UK, 1st Floor Scottish Mutual House, 27-29 North Street, Hornchurch, RM11 1RS

Dementia Action Alliance has also produced a pocket telephone directory, listing useful contact numbers for Health providers, Council services and Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Havering Association for People with Disabilities (HAD)

I am a member of the Board of Trustees for this Association and I have taken part in several fund raising events over the past year to support the valuable work of the charity. HAD continues to offer a wide range of courses and social activities and to promote independence and improve the quality of life for disabled people in the Borough.

I would like to take this opportunity to make a plea for volunteers! The charity is always keen to hear from people who have time and skills to offer, so if you know of anybody who may be interested, please do urge them to contact HAD directly.

Sight Action Havering

Sight Action Havering is a registered charity and has been operating in the Borough for almost twenty years.

The Committee meets at Yew Tree Lodge nine times per year and provides a major support service to those at risk of, or living with, sight loss.

The Charity is totally funded from donations and provides information and advice service and a telephone support line. The charity is based at the Talking Newspaper Studio in Harold Wood.

I was appointed as the Council's representative to this Charity in November, 2018.

The aging population of the Borough, and the link to aging and sight loss, has seen an increase in demand for services. The most pressing matter is therefore to establish a presence in Queen's Hospital and provide a point of contact and immediate assistance for residents in need.

Health Champion

In the course of the year, I have undertaken training to become a Health Champion. The Council is collaborating with Tapestry to offer courses in Understanding Health Improvement. The programme enables participants to assist individuals and communities in making healthier choices and promote awareness of medical conditions. My main role has been to act as a conduit between residents and Council services and act as a point of contact to other agencies.

‘School for Scammers’

Once again, Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) funding was used to create and deliver a bespoke interactive performance programme for community groups, to raise awareness of fraudulent activities that might affect them. In consultation with the Safer Neighbourhood Board, “School for Scammers” - a humorous and thought-provoking one-hour Forum Theatre and multi-media programme was delivered to Havering residents and provided another valuable opportunity for different generations to interact and exchange views .

Havering Over 50’s Forum

I have attended meetings of the Havering Over 50’s Forum regularly in the past year. The Forum continues to be well supported and provides an important means of communication and information sharing.

The Havering Over 50’s Forum had a wide and varied programme of speakers this year and enjoyed presentations from Catalyst Night Shelter, Healthwatch, Neighbourhood Police, Carers Hub, Active Travel and the Healthy Walks Program. Council officers who attended the Forum included staff from Trading Standards, Housing and Licensing and Corporate Diversity. A particular highlight was a presentation on the restoration of Langtons Gardens in Hornchurch.

I would like to thank all the volunteers, officers and organisations who have assisted me in my first year as Member Champion for the over 50’s .All of these important committees are in need of support, relying on volunteers, who give up their valuable time and without whose help there would not be the information and help available for a large number of Havering residents.

I look forward to developing partnerships and projects over the coming year.

Councillor Christine Smith