

Health and Community Services

## **Older Persons Living Forum**

19/06/2024

**Government of Jersey** 

## Agenda Items – Meeting 10

Item	Description
1	Welcome/Introductions
2	Social Security Minister
3	Closer to Home Event update
4	Actions from previous meetings
5	Cash Payments

Item	Discussion & Agreement
1	Welcome/Introductions
	The members of the forum introduced themselves and the Co-Chair reviewed the general housekeeping of the meeting so that the forum was accessible to everybody.

Item	Discussion & Agreement
2	Social Security Minister
	The Social Security Minister joined the meeting and welcomed questions and comments from the forum. Topics of conversation included, communication accessibility, cost-of-living, rental tenancy, blue badge spaces, forms of identification and concerns regarding scooters and bicycles.
	A forum member has previously faced discrimination by a landlord when they were denied a rental tenancy due to having a pension rather than a salary. The Social Security Minister let the forum know she would feedback this issue to the Housing Minister.
	Another important question raised was regarding alternate forms of identification beyond a passport and driver's license, which is not always accessibly for the older community. The Social Security Minister let the forum know that there is work being done on a cross government project to provide a form of identification card through parishes.
	The forum highlighted safety concerns posed by cyclist and scooter users for those with hearing or sight impairments. The Minister agreed she would feed this back to the appropriate Ministers for further action.

ltem	Discussion & Agreement
	Forms of accessible communication were also reviewed. It was discussed internet and QR codes are not available to everyone, and the government and other organisations need to provide multiple options for communication. It was also discussed using the phone is difficult for those with hearing loss and access is not as available as the UK. Phone relays can take a long time which can cause expensive phone charges. The Minister let the forum know the Disability and Inclusion team are working on projects in assisted tech to assist with this. The Minister shared updates on efforts to enhance accessibility in terms of blue badge parking through the Disability and Inclusion team and the Infrastructure and Environment team.
3	<b>Closer to Home update</b> The next Closer to Home will be on Thursday 11 July from 12 – 2:30pm at Age Concern. The event is focussed on the wellbeing for the over 55s community. Organisations will be providing advice on exercise, fraud prevention, the latest home alarm technology, will writing and power of attorney, support for sight and hearing impairments and benefits. Organisations attending include, Call&Check, Andium Homes, EYECAN, Carers Jersey and Family Nursing & Home Care.

ltem	Discussion & Agreement
4	Actions from previous meeting – Representative to enquire with the Disability and Inclusion team to determine the appropriate contact person for blue badge related enquires.
	There is a meeting at St John's Parish Hall at 10.30am 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 to discuss Blue Badge parking. This is being organised by Edward Trevor of Shopmobility
	Please see the Agenda for the meeting below.
	Agenda Blue Badge Parking Group (6) 25
	At this meeting it will be decided how blue badge abuse should be reported. <b>To Action: Local Services representative</b> to follow up with Disability & Inclusion representative and find out the appropriate way to report blue badge misuse.
5	Cash Payments
	The Forum discussed that more businesses are accepting only card payments. The Co-Chair suggested that he could write a submission to the Economic and International Affairs scrutiny

Item	Discussion & Agreement
	<ul> <li>panel on behalf of the forum. The forum discussed the main points that they would like to include in the submission for the panel: <ul> <li>Online banking and the use of cards is not always accessible to those with a disability or visual or hearing impairments.</li> <li>Those who cannot see or hear rely on the physicality of money.</li> <li>Individuals who have trouble understanding online banking have asked for a home visit by banks for help, in which the banks have refused.</li> <li>Pins can be hard to remember for individuals with cognitive impairments.</li> <li>Small transactions with cards can be charged an additional card fee, or a minimum payment is required, which is difficult in a cost-of-living crisis.</li> <li>Honesty boxes use cash, and they are a part of Jersey Heritage.</li> <li>Individuals who rely on family and friends to buy groceries or run errands give their family/friends cash to make payments.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6	Next meeting date 2:00pm on Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> 2024
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