

General discussion about services for older people – in particular those with disabilities or impairments.

Does the group believe this should be a key priority for the Older People Strategy?
Yes

Access to information is key for older people –
Transport for the elderly -

Access to buildings can also be problematic – the involvement of those with disabilities in the design of buildings or facilities should be promoted (for example, the toilets in the Church venue were found not to be accessible for wheelchair users who need to transfer from the wheelchair to the toilet from the left-handed side!); Most public buildings are getting better since the Disability Discrimination Act was introduced but there were concerns about privately owned buildings since there is no compulsion to update or carry out reasonable adjustments;

Are these the main areas of need?

1. The group felt it was important to target assistance to those most in need of it;
2. Education – could there be some training provision (or is there already?) for older people to use computers or mobile phones?

Are there any other areas of need the group feels should be included within this theme?

1. Could the council influence businesses to provide better physical access to buildings in some way – via the FLEET VISION exercise, licensing, grants, small business rate relief??

Do people feel they have enough information about services available in this?

- 1 The group agreed that parish councils could be better used to circulate information about services and to help identify those most in need of assistance in their community;
- 2 Could carers be trained in the use of the Trigger Tool? If they are aware of the tool it may come in useful if they experience an issue either in their own home or someone else's. Generally, they are usually people who may be able to provide advice or assistance.
- 3 Could volunteers be used to donate time and carry out some of the reasonable adaptations that would improve access to buildings – is there a similar project to Minding the Garden here?? but for small businesses?
- 4 Recent snowy weather has identified a need for more grit bins so that some residents can help themselves and others in their community/locale by spreading grit instead of writing for the county council to attend (NB a letter from County went to parishes asking if they would like to bid for more grit bins (copy with Lesley Trusler)