

2. Age Concern Barking and Dagenham

2.1 Each Age Concern is a separate charity responsible for raising its own funds. Age Concern Barking and Dagenham therefore has to raise its own funds for the Active Age Service if it is to continue. Age Concern Barking and Dagenham are trying to achieve some of the funding gap by launching and managing the Daisy Chain Appeal within the Borough.

3. Active Age Service

3.1 The Active Age Service is run from a number of venues throughout the Borough, some of which are community halls, others are either churches or in other ownership. The Council agreed to fund the rents for the buildings and the service used for 2003/4 and 2004 / 2005 as follows:

Thames View	£ 8,200
Seabrook (part funded)	£10,100
Wantz (part funded)	£ 9,000
Ted Ball	£10,600
Alice Martin	£ 6,200
Park Centre	£ 8,400
Westbury (part funded)	£ 8,100
Chadwell Heath	£11,800
Rush Green	£ 8,600
Total budget for rent	£81,000 per annum

3.2 The remaining funds needed for the service had to be found by Age Concern. This led to a membership fee of between £1.75 and £2.50 being charged for individuals using the service on a weekly basis. The membership fee along with other local fundraising was hoped to fill the gap in funding. This has not been possible and at present an £80,000 deficit is projected for 2004/05.

3.3 The Disability Discrimination Act requires all buildings to be up to the required standard by October 2004. There are two buildings which do not currently meet this, Chadwell Heath and Rush Green, and which could therefore cease to be used. We have been advised that Rush Green are working hard to make this building compliant by the October 2004 deadline.

4. Age Concern Daisy Chain Appeal

4.1 Age Concern Barking and Dagenham is seeking to raise £2m via the Daisy Chain Appeal.

The main aims of the Appeal are:

- To give older people new opportunities
- A place to meet in a welcoming environment
- To be sustainable

There would be three main centres and each will focus on one of the main areas of Health; Education; Arts and Leisure.

The vision for the Daisy Chain Appeal is:-

- The service will operate longer hours
- The service will offer good catering facilities
- The environment will be well kept and inviting.

A steering committee of voluntary sector officers and local authority members/officers has been set up to take this forward.

5. The Way Forward

The way forward for Age Concern Barking and Dagenham is dependent on what type of support is given by the Council and other organisations and whether it can achieve fund raising to cover the financial implications of managing that service within the Community.

6. Financial Implications

The options put forward in this Report do not have any financial implications on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

7. Consultation

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Background reports used in the production of this report

Daisy Chain Appeal Report – Age Concern Barking and Dagenham