

THE EXECUTIVE

3 AUGUST 2004

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE STRATEGY

AGE CONCERN - FUTURE OF THE ACTIVE AGE SERVICE	FOR DECISION
<p><i>This report is submitted to the Executive further to previous discussions about the active age service..</i></p> <p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This report outlines the results of a meeting between Age Concern Trustees and interested Members and asks the Executive to endorse the further work proposed at that meeting</p> <p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>The Executive is asked to endorse the way forward set out at in paragraph 2.2 of this report.</p> <p><u>Reason</u></p> <p>To clarify the further work required to explore the options for securing the active age service.</p>	
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1. **History**

1.1 The Director of Social Services submitted a report to The Executive on 26 November 2002 on the reshaping of elders day services. As a result a contract was agreed with Age Concern for a frail elders service and alternative funding would need to be found for the remaining active age service. In order to assist Age Concern in moving to a self funding active age service, on 22 July 2003, the Executive agreed to fund:

- the rents for the premises used by Age Concern to provide the Active Age Centres, for two years only (total £166,120); and
- a fundraiser for Age Concern (£24,000)

This funding would cease in March 2005.

1.2 The Executive on 18 May 2004 agreed to support the Daisy Chain Appeal in principle but without any financial commitment.

2. Meeting between the Council and Age Concern

2.1 A meeting between the Council and Age Concern took place on 13 July 2004. Councillors McCarthy (Chair), H Collins and Mrs Bruce were present. Officers attending were: John Tatam, Naomi Goldberg, Mick Beackon, Jim Wilson, Rob Tomlinson and Teresa Parish. Age Concern were represented by Doug Waters, Brian Devlin, Keith Chapman, Sam Mauger and Claire Ramm.

At the meeting, Officers gave a presentation which outlined:

- the implications for the Active Age Centres when funding for the rent ceases at the end of March
- the difficulties that Age Concern face because of uncertainties around the future of premises that they use for the Active Age Centres
- possible options available if the Active Age Centres are to continue

Members present questioned Age Concern about:

- their fundraising activities and problems they encountered with funding applications
- numbers using the centres
- Age Concern's ideas around developing Centres of Excellence and the use of Community Halls

Members and Age Concern both stated their ambition was to bring the Centres back to a five day a week service if possible.

2.2 It was proposed that:

1. Officers should work with Age Concern to identify premises including community halls where Active Age Centres can continue to be provided in the long term;
2. Where Community Associations have indicated that they may not have the capacity to take out leases themselves Officers would work with Age Concern to agree leases on Community Halls in partnership with the relevant Community Associations and Ward Councillors with the aim of avoiding closure of the centres and ensuring that community association activities could still take place;
3. A report should be submitted to the Executive in September setting out options for the future of the Active Age Service along with costings; and
4. Officers will clarify for Age Concern the likely future position for each of the premises they currently use in the light of the community halls' review.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Executive has previously agreed to cease financial support for the active age service from March 2005. Any financial implications of maintaining a full active age service will be included in the report proposed for submission to the Executive in September. If that report details any additional financial costs, these will have to be considered within the overall Budget Strategy and Budget Process for 2005/06.

Background Papers:

- Presentation made to Meeting with Age Concern – 13th July 2004
- Executive Minute 227 (26 November 2002) – Frail Elders Day Services
- Executive Minute 58(22 July 2003) – Age Concern Active Elderly Centre
- Executive Minute 401 (18 May 2004) Age Concern Barking and Dagenham