

PROPOSALS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND CARERS

Background:

The Council wishes to encourage Area Boards to identify champions in each of the county's community areas who will have a key role in representing the views of older people and carers at both a local and county wide level. A sum of £1000 has been identified for each community area for this purpose, should area boards wish to take up this suggestion.

Champions will talk and seek the views of older people or carers in their local communities on matters related to services provided by the Council or NHS and represent these views at area boards.

They will work with area boards and local voluntary groups to encourage joint working and share experience to help new local groups set up.

A champion can be an individual or a group who can represent the views of older people or carers in their area and who will already have contact with older people or carers.

Champions will be able to advocate for older people or carers and be a focal point for identifying what service improvements or developments are required.

They will link with and report to the Community Engagement Manager.

Each Area Board will have an annual budget of £1000. Reasonable expenses for the Champions will be met from this budget with approval being authorised by the Community Engagement Manager

Benefits to area boards of having champions:

Champions will talk to older people or carers to obtain their views about services. They will represent these views at Area Board meetings or other meetings as requested and discuss with the Council and CCG Commissioners the priorities for older people or carers and work with them on service improvements and developments.

The main duties of Champions will be:

- I. To talk with and seek the views of older people or carers in local communities on matters related to services provided by the Council or NHS.

- II. To provide a focus for the exchange of views and information between older people or carers and the Council's adult care and housing services.
- III. To attend meetings at the request of the Area Board and occasionally the Council.
- IV. To work with the Area Boards on service improvements and developments to meet the needs of people in community areas.
- V. To attend area boards to report back on older people and carers issues.
- VI. To attend meetings with other champions and the Council

If area boards wish to proceed with identifying a champion:

It is suggested that area boards seek nominations from their communities and appoint the champions at an area board in the autumn.