

All Older People!

Involvement in Improving Public Services in East Sussex



Your Views

Following the All Our Futures conference in September 2004 a draft strategy for **involving older people in improving public services** has been developed. This is now being consulted on from January to April 2005 and we would like your ideas.

The strategy is aimed at all people over 50 who live in East Sussex. It is also for older carers and carers of older people. It aims to include hard-to-reach groups.

The strategy has been developed by – and will be implemented by - East Sussex County Council and partner agencies, including NHS organisations, Age Concern, and other voluntary groups. It has been written together with older people.

Comments on the strategy would be welcome from older people, organisations which work with older people, community groups and anyone who has an interest in older people's issues or public services for older people.

What is Involvement?

Involvement is **active, ongoing and informed joint working**. It means including people in decision-making processes and working together to bring about change.

The strategy proposes that there will be five local older people's forums across the county (some existing, some of them new). These forums will then be linked up – perhaps through a county-wide forum, a newsletter or events. What happens depends on what you, and others, have to say and want to do.

- ★ Suggestions are welcomed about the best ways to involve people who are housebound, black and minority ethnic groups including travellers, rural communities, the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities, people in hospital or in residential settings, those with mental health difficulties and those with physical, learning and/or sensory disabilities.

Successful Funding Bid

A joint bid by East Sussex County Council and Shropshire County Council to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has been successful. This will mean that East Sussex can benefit from Shropshire County Council's experience of setting up its own successful senior citizens' forums and its county-wide association of senior citizens. As well as an event in East Sussex later in 2005, there will be training and consultancy support from Shropshire groups.

Contact details

Further information:

If you want a copy of this strategy, or a summary of it, need the strategy in large print or by e-mail, or would like copies of the 'All Our Futures' conference report please contact Vicky Lawrence at East Sussex County Council on 01273 482036; vicky.lawrence@eastsussex.gov.uk

If you would like the summary of the strategy translated into your language, please phone Southeast Interpreting and Translation Services on 01273 473986. Leave a message telling them you want the summary translated and the language you would like it translated into, together with your name and address.

For further information on getting involved in older people's forums in East Sussex please contact:

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★ **Rother Community Links**

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**working with voluntary, community,
independent and statutory partners**

