

# POPP

NORTH SOMERSET

Partnerships for Older People Projects

The ethos of the POPP is keeping older people central to the development of service provision. POPP hopes to demonstrate the benefits of partnership working, by enabling independence and quality of life for older people through timely access to services they consider appropriate.



**A warm welcome from the POPP partners, to our second newsletter. We hope you will find this informative. If you have any questions or would like to be involved in developing the project, please contact us, we look forward to hearing from you.**

## Overview

North Somerset Partnerships for Older People (POPP) is trialling new ways of partnership working, to support older people maintain independence through preventing deterioration in health and quality of life.

North Somerset POPP involves five projects which will run until Mar 2009. For the purposes of POPP an older person is defined as being 50+.

## Partners Making Progress – Update

The second quarter of the project Jul – Sep saw advances in all aspects of the project. We hope you will feel, as we do that the project is making the most of the opportunity afforded to us. The progress is provided for each project spur for clarity.

## 1. Age Concern Somerset

**Project: Improving quality of life for older people through active involvement in community services.**

All staff are now in post and the four Community Development Workers (CDWs) are actively linking with the North Somerset Council Social Services Adult Care Teams across the area.

In September, Age Concern Somerset successfully launched their POPP project at the start of the new round of community cafes in Yatton. They offered the opportunity to participate in a free opinion raffle and POPPer game to win prizes. The launch was supported by Lord Cotter and a number of local councillors together with a range of residents of all ages.



Lord Cotter (centre) with the POPP community development staff

The development workers will continue to support the cafes over the coming year, developing the service to benefit the community. Work has also started to identify gaps in services for older people.

Following a press release about the project, POPP was contacted to help develop an opportunity for ex-carers to meet regularly. As a result of joint efforts with Age Concern Somerset CDW Linda Jones and the older people, Diamond Carers Group was formed. A successful bid for funding meant the group can meet on a regular basis for lunch and costs can be subsidised for members.

The CDWs have already identified various unmet needs including: gardening, home maintenance, light bulb changing, shopping, befriending support, help on the return home from hospital and difficulties with transport across the region. Work is now under way to explore options and develop services to meet these needs.

POPP has held its first two meetings for potential members of the older people panels in Weston and Clevedon. Participants are still needed for all four panels Weston, Worle, Clevedon and Nailsea, who between them will cover concerns and issues for the whole of North Somerset. The panels are key in representing older people's views and directing development of community services. Meetings will be monthly. Anyone wishing to participate should contact Karen Philpott for further details.

Age Concern Somerset has linked with the Housing Renewals Team at the council to support the delivery of decent homes for older people. Staff use a home safety form to help identify any safety, security or heating issues which may be of concern and provide details of services which can help. The form is also available as a self assessment. For more information please contact Karen.

POPP has also supported the provision of Warm and Well greeting cards, which can be sent to older people, with a warm greeting or personal message as the weather deteriorates. For more information/free cards please contact Karen and team.

Age Concern Somerset is still on the look out for volunteers to help develop new services and support for older people in North Somerset. If you are interested in helping out or have ideas which could help, Karen and team would love to hear from you.



## 2. Somerset Racial Equality Council (SREC)

**Project: Improving quality of life for older members of North Somerset's Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population.**

SREC have used their time since the project started to recruit a community development worker who has linked with relevant services throughout North Somerset to raise the profile of needs of older people from the BME population. SREC is working to contact older people from the BME population who may be in need of services, advice and support. If you are aware of anyone who could benefit from our services, please contact us or pass on our contact details.

## 3. North Somerset Crossroads Caring for Carers

**Project: The introduction of flexible services for older carers.**

Crossroads successfully launched their POPP project in Carers Week (11-15 June) with a free Balloon Pop raffle. The launch was attended by carers from across the region. Jane Smith, Director of Adult Housing and Social Services North Somerset Council, Anne Roberts, Chief Executive Crossroads Association and a number of local councillors also supported the event.



Jane Smith and John Oldham (Chair of Trustees Crossroads) support the Balloon Pop.

### Before the balloon pop and After!

Amidst the commotion of balloons popping, a number of existing and new carers were able to link with services under POPP. We are pleased with the response to the project and at Sep 07 North Somerset Crossroads are already actively supporting 15 carers. The range of support requested is varied; from assistance with daily living to direct support for the carer to promote a sense of wellbeing and relaxation.

Crossroads are keen to support carers in exercising their choice of services to alleviate carer strain. They have also developed a menu of services to encourage carers to think about different types of support which could be arranged. For more information, please contact the Care Scheme.



#### 4. Health and Social Care services

**Project: The integration of working practices for health, mental health and social care staff.**

Work has started with the staff integrating as a Worle based team, building on their positive experience of partnership working. Two staff events have been held to identify and work through aspects of integration.

Development has begun for a single point of access for community services, a common framework for assessment and sharing of information between relevant organisations. Options for co-locating staff are currently being considered. Discussions are also underway to ensure staff are suitably trained and professionally supported within the new integrated way of working – to provide the most effective service possible

The plans for the next quarter are to increase the involvement of staff across the District for the three remaining integrated teams, continue to progress the areas of work already started and continue to develop integrated working practices.

#### 5. Pavement repair

**Project: Trialling the concept of prevention not compensation, through the repair of hazardous pavements.**

The pavement repair work for year 1 had been completed by July. The activity and incidents – to inform year 2 repairs are being monitored and older people will be engaged through POPP to help select the areas for repair next year.

A falls awareness campaign by Help the Aged was actively supported by the local Senior Citizens Forum – identifying hazardous pavements and alerting Streets and Open Spaces to these. As a result of the local concern, discussions are underway about the possibilities of continuing this programme for North Somerset.

### Evaluation

The Evaluation Trust is evaluating the success of the projects and is in the process of engaging older people to help.

The evaluators have continued to work with the partners to identify how we will know if the projects have been successful.

### Older People Input

Throughout the project the aim is to keep contact with the views of older people. This is instrumental in determining the direction and success of the project. Representation has continued on the project team through three members of three senior citizens forums and is being developed through the creation of four older people panels.

Involvement of older people in the development and provision of services locally is set to continue this quarter with any necessary training being provided through Age Concern Somerset.

The Evaluation Trust will also be seeking and supporting older people to help evaluate the project progress and processes. Anyone interested in supporting or benefiting the project is encouraged to contact us.

### What's Next?

POPP in the library week is scheduled for week beginning 22 Oct at a number of libraries across the district. Links with the libraries will continue throughout the project and across North Somerset.

We will continue efforts to make information available through local supermarkets having already made successful links with the display and leaflets at Portishead 'Costcutters' store.



**Karen Philpott and 'Costcutters' Manager Mark Rogers.**

## Pause for Thought – Get the grey matter going!

- ? Are you or do you know someone who is isolated?
- ? Are you or do you know an older person who has a poor quality of life and would like to improve it through POPP?
- ? Are you or do you know a carer who could benefit from tailor made support to help them continue to care?
- ? Are you or do you know of an older person of a black or minority ethnic background who would like to talk to us about how we could help?
- ? Are you an older person who wants to be more involved in discussions to develop services for the community in North Somerset?
- ? Are you able to spare some time to help provide services for older people in the area?
- ? Do you have any good ideas about what is needed locally to help older people?
- ? As an older person, do you want to be involved in representing the views of other older people in the community?

If you answered yes to any of the questions, you could play a part in POPP. Please contact us, we would love to hear from you.

If you answered no to the questions but would still like to be informed of the work we are doing under POPP, why not contact us and be added to our mailing list for our quarterly newsletter.

**Work continues, to identify isolated older people in need across the area and link them with existing services wherever possible.**

**If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from our support please contact us.**



## Want to know more? Please contact us.

### Key Contacts:

#### Project Manager

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Weston-super-Mare, Somerset BS23 1ZY.  
Email: [POPP@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:POPP@n-somerset.gov.uk)

#### Age Concern Somerset

Karen Philpott **01934 614765**

#### North Somerset Crossroads

Christine Holland **01934 411852**  
Care Scheme **01934 411842**

#### Health and Social Care - Integration of services

Project Manager Sarah Shaw (As above)

#### SREC

Quentin Isaac **01934 414 455**

#### Highways

Streets and Open Spaces **01934 888 802**

#### POPP Pavement Repair Project

Project Manager Sarah Shaw (As above)

### Key websites

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/POPP](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/POPP)  
[www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)  
[www.ageconcernsomerset.org.uk](http://www.ageconcernsomerset.org.uk)  
[www.srec.org.uk](http://www.srec.org.uk)  
[www.nscrossroads.org.uk](http://www.nscrossroads.org.uk)  
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