







**Meeting:** Senior Forum

**Date:** 26.08.25 **Time:** 11:00 am **Location:** Zoom

**In attendance:** Suzy Firkin (Chair), Cathy Dean (Secretary), Kay Wesley, Glen Williams, Jonny Gribbon, David Morris.

**Apologies:** Diane Ritherdon, Kate Fallon, Catherine Sale

1.	<p><b><u>Welcome</u></b></p> <p>Suzy welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes dated 24.06.25 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.</p>
2.	<p><b>Outstanding Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ability Net Sessions – meetings are continuing at the Library and Bromley Farm Hub, Jonny to send over new poster. Library 18<sup>th</sup> September 2-3pm (3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month) Bromley Farm Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Oct (Lunch Club) – Kay to add to the schedule for the hub.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b><u>Dementia Friends Update</u></b></p> <p>Diane could not access the call.</p> <p>No Tier Snooker continues to gather support, possibly opening another Congleton Group. Ian is in talks with Longton Snooker Club and others to replicate the group. Confirmed bank account now open so will be able to apply for further grant funding.</p> <p><b><u>Lions Update - Dementia Buddy</u></b></p> <p>David is talking to the police and crime commissioner regarding raising awareness of Dementia Buddy &amp; message in a bottle.</p> <p>David will be visiting the No Tier group.</p> <p>Lions dementia lead has created large information packs with aids for people living at home, SP's very interested in the info packs.</p>

	<p><b>Action</b> – Arrange a session for the wider group to go through the information produced by the Lions dementia lead. Cathy/David to arrange a suitable time.</p> <p>Suzy visited Astbury Mere Care Home for dementia action day. They would like to be connected with the local community. Events and support services run not just for residents but for people living in the community.</p> <p><b>Young At Heart Leaflet</b></p> <p>There are no copies left of the Young at Heart activities leaflet. We have the budget to reprint for 25/26 – do we want to include anything different?</p> <p>QR codes</p> <p>Age UK is running coach tours in local towns but not in Congleton. Is that something we can lobby for?</p> <p><b>Action</b> – Bring together community leads, event for services for the older community, Senior Forum Open Session, precursor to the Wellbeing Fayre? Generate renewed energy into the group and gather more ideas on how we can better work together as a community. Early November (Cathy)</p>
4.	<p><b><u>Changing Lives</u></b></p> <p>Cathy has made an application to the healthy neighbourhood funding recently announced via Cheshire East. The grant is made in partnership with CHOC.</p> <p>The bid is to continue the telephone befriending but expand into a warm welcome group and work with Volunteer Action Congleton for in-person befrienders. Potentially able to supply transport via the partnership minibus.</p> <p>Note Age UK are currently not taking on any further telephone befriending as over over-subscribed.</p> <p>We won't have a decision until October.</p>
5	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>Health &amp; Wellbeing Fayre is on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026</p> <p>AGE UK Scam awareness event 21<sup>st</sup> October 13:00 – 15:00 Macclesfield Town Hall.</p> <p><b>Know Your Numbers Week</b> – As part of the initiative, residents can drop in for a free blood pressure check with GPs from Lawton House Surgery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Congleton Town Hall</li> <li> Wednesday 10 September, 1–3pm</li> <li> Saturday 13 September, 10am–2pm</li> <li> No booking required – just drop in.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>The Household Support Fund (HSF)</b> has been extended. The fund will cover the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.</p> <p>In Cheshire East, the HSF grant provides crisis support to financially vulnerable households most in need. The fund is also available to support those adults and families who are struggling to afford household basics, including food, energy, and wider essentials.</p> <p><b>All referrals for support need to be made by a trusted professional.</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/financial-support/household-support-fund.aspx">https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/financial-support/household-support-fund.aspx</a></p>
	<p><b>Next Meeting Date.</b></p> <p>Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 11 am</p>