

Summary Minutes of the Older People Regional Thematic Group held on 4th May 2025

Attendees:

Alistair Mawhinney Assistant Director SP (Chair)
 Laura O'Neill SP
 Marion Fisher SP
 Liam Smyth SP (Mins)

Ann Marie Fox SPPG
 Brendan Morrissey CRISPP
 Cameron Watt CRISPP
 Deirdre Walker CRISPP
 Benjamin Urquhart NIHE

Summary Minute

Digital Switchover Discussion

Discussion took place around digital switchover and future discussions to be arranged and take place.

Supporting People Update – Supporting People Modernisation (SPM)

There will be engagement opportunities to work through the various strands of the SPM.

The SPM will include a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA), it will also look at equity of funding, further consider the Outcomes model and general efficiency and administration processes.

Supporting People Budget

A budget bid has been submitted to DfC, taking into consideration the increase in costs.

Sharp Update

The new SHARP IT system is progressing well in terms of reporting and accuracy.

Strategic Advisory Board Update

Written correspondence was sent to SAB Members to seek their view on the proposal to move to bi-annual SAB meetings.

Any Other Business (AOB)

There was a query around the Programme for Government announcement on the new social housing figure and what proportion would be for older people.

SP will be scoping options on the Ability to Pay eligibility monitoring. Over 300 sheltered services receive funding requiring eligibility monitoring which is admin intensive for SP and Providers.

An update was given on the Northern Ireland Continued Independence in Later Life (NICILL) meeting.