

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to	THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Date	11th FEBRUARY 2013
Subject	NATIONAL PENSIONERS CONVENTION DIGNITY CODE
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr KENNETH P HUGHES
Lead Officer(s)	ANWEN DAVIES, HEAD OF ADULTS' SERVICES
Contact Officer	ANWEN DAVIES, HEAD OF ADULTS' SERVICES
Nature and reason for reporting	
<p>To consider becoming a signatory to the Dignity Code of the National Pensioners Convention and commit to applying its aspirations in all aspects of the Authority's activities</p>	

A – Introduction / Background / Issues
<p>1.1 The National Pensioners Convention (NPC) is the principal organisation representing pensioners in the United Kingdom. It is made up of approximately 1,000 bodies representing 1.5 million members and organised into federal regional units. The NPC was founded by Jack Jones [former Transport & General Workers Union leader] in 1979. He served as its President until 2001, when he was succeeded by Rodney Bickerstaffe [who had been general secretary of UNISON]. Frank Cooper is the current President. In summary, the NPC cites itself as the only national campaign group in the Country which is run by pensioners for pensioners;</p> <p>1.2 The main objective of the Convention is cited to be - "<i>to promote the welfare and interests of all pensioners, as a way of securing dignity, respect and financial security in retirement</i>". Another of the NPC's priorities is to influence public opinion and where appropriate, endeavour to secure changes in government policy affecting older people. Indeed, the Convention organises rallies and lobbies MPs, leads delegations to Parliament and makes submissions to Government on policies affecting older people.</p>

B - Considerations

1.1 The National Pensioners Convention's new campaign for 2012/13 is entitled Fair Care and has the following objectives:

- Raise arguments in favour of a National Care Service funded through general taxation (like the NHS);
- Call for improved standards, better training and pay for care staff;
- **Introduction of a Dignity Code to give rights to all older people in receipt of care.**

1.1 The Chair of the National Pensioners Convention Cymru/Wales has been in correspondence with the Local Authority at the end of 2012 regarding its Dignity Code. The Code asks that all people, regardless of age should be treated with dignity. NPC states the purpose of its Dignity Code as being to *"uphold the rights and maintain the personal dignity of older people within the context of ensuring the health, safety and well-being of those who are increasingly less able to care for themselves or to properly conduct their affairs"*.

A full copy of the National Pensioners Convention Dignity Code is attached – **APPENDIX A**

1.2 In writing to the Local Authority, NPC have requested that the Council accept and sign up to its Dignity Code and apply its principles throughout the activities of Council business. We are advised that the Code has already been accepted in many areas – signatories include MPs, AMs, many professionals working with older people's services, lay people.

C – Implications and Impacts

1	Finance / Section 151	-
2	Legal / Monitoring Officer	-
3	Human Resources	
4	Property Services (see notes – separate document)	
5	Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	

C – Implications and Impacts		
6	Equality (see notes – separate document)	
7	Anti-poverty and Social (see notes – separate document)	
8	Communication (see notes – separate document)	
9	Consultation (see notes – separate document)	
10	Economic	
11	Environmental (see notes – separate document)	
12	Crime and Disorder (see notes – separate document)	
13	Outcome Agreements	

D - Recommendation
<p>The Executive Committee is requested to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • signing the National Pensioners Convention Dignity Code (APPENDIX A); • committing to applying the aspirations of the NPC Code in all aspects of the Authority's activities

Name of author of report
Job Title
Date

Anwen Davies
Head of Adults' Services
18 January 2013

Appendices:

APPENDIX A National Pensioners Convention Dignity Code

Background papers

Letter dated 5 December, 2012 from the Chair of the National Pensioners Convention Wales
National Pensioners Convention Uk website (npcuk.org)

Dignity Code

The purpose of this Dignity Code is to uphold the rights and maintain the personal dignity of older people, within the context of ensuring the health, safety and well being of those who are increasingly less able to care for themselves or to properly conduct their affairs.

This Code recognises that certain practices and actions are unacceptable to older people, such as:

- Being abusive or disrespectful in any way, ignoring people or assuming they cannot do things for themselves
- Treating older people as objects or speaking about them in their presence as if they were not there
- Not respecting the need for privacy
- Not informing older people of what is happening in a way that they can understand
- Changing the older person's environment without their permission
- Intervening or performing care without consent
- Using unnecessary medication or restraints
- Failing to take care of an older person's personal appearance
- Not allowing older people to speak for themselves, either directly or through the use of a friend, relative or advocate
- Refusing treatment on the grounds of age

This Code therefore calls for:

- Respect for individuals to make up their own minds, and for their personal wishes as expressed in 'living wills', for implementation when they can no longer express themselves clearly
- Respect for an individual's habits, values, particular cultural background and any needs, linguistic or otherwise
- The use of formal spoken terms of address, unless invited to do otherwise
- Comfort, consideration, inclusion, participation, stimulation and a sense of purpose in all aspects of care
- Care to be adapted to the needs of the individual
- Support for the individual to maintain their hygiene and personal appearance
- Respect for people's homes, living space and privacy
- Concerns to be dealt with thoroughly and the right to complain without fear of retribution
- The provision of advocacy services where appropriate

NPC

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www.npcuk.org