MINUTES OF THE AGE UK LEWISHAM AND SOUTHWARK AGM
19th January 2026
STONES END DAY CENTRE
4.30pm – 6.30pm

Present:
Trustees
Philippe Granger (Chair), Shelina Thawer, Romy van Es, Katy King & Marcia Purnell

Staff
Abbi Greene, David Colbran, Helena Velmans, Rajvi Patel, Robyn Johansen, Yazmira Boliviar, Marisel Mondoza, Michael Bird and Chris Price

Guests and members
Maria Kogkou (former trustee), Rev Nick Walsh and Lucie Walsh (St Luke's and St Mark's Downham) Jude Leighton (USTSC) Sarah Bullman (LB Southwark) Cllr. Maria Lindford Hall (LB Southwark) Joy Rugah (Age Connection), Helen Keenan (Time and Talents), Igor Birzula (Volunteer), Gulen Petty (Lewisham Local) Cllr David Walker (LB Lewisham), Genevie George (LB Lewisham) Cllr. Sarah King (Leader of LB Southwark), Cllr Esme Dobson (LB Southwark), Xiaoqing Wang (Volunteer) Cllr. Evelyn Akoto (LB Southwark), Liz Drury (Age UK London), Alan Hill (Volunteer) Cllr Sakina Sheikh LB Lewisham, Chinesa Uyanna (prospective trustee), Cllr Victor Chamberlain (LB Southwark)

Apologies:
Lizzie Skelton (LBS Commissioning), Iris Till (Positive Ageing Council Lewisham), Rebecca Scott (Pecan), Sarah Vitty (Lewisham Foodbank), Cllr. Helen Dennis (LB Southwark), Vicki Tapley (Guys and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust), Kathryn Simpson (LB Southwark), Matthew Allgood (Southwark Charities), Cllr. Rachel Bentley (LB Southwark), Neil McCarthy (LB Southwark), Martyn Craddock (USTSC), Anood Al Samerai (Community Southwark), Cllr. Liam Curran (LB Lewisham), Cllr. Hilary Moore (LB Lewisham), Denise Radley (LB Lewisham), Cllr. Carol Webley Brown (LB Lewisham) Cllr. James Walsh (LB Lewisham),

1. Introduction and Welcome:
   Philippe Granger, the Chair of Age UK Lewisham and Southwark, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Members voice
   We heard from Alan Hill who is a member of the Lewisham Advisory Group. He spoke about his experience of being supported by CCL and now being able to give back through the advisory group. He explained that having access to a disabled freedom pass meant that he can now access art classes, dominoes groups, mental health support and various other activities that enable him to stay connected in the community. He expressed the importance of tackling isolation and how important access to transport is for so many people in similar situations to him.

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3. Guest Speakers –

   Cllr. Sarah King – Leader of Southwark Council

   Spoke about older people being assets in the community and Age UK L&S helped to bring them to life. This is key to working in partnership and being an age friendly borough.
   Housing is another key issue for older people. Cllr King stated that the borough is soon to be launching a 'Older People's Housing Strategy.
   A new pilot for Community Wardens is being launched as the council has recognised that women and older people far too often feel unsafe on our streets at night.
   Cllr King commented that there is a strong recognition that the Cost of Living Crisis is still with us. The council will continue to enable access to debt support and imbed age friendly principles.

   Cllr. Sakina Sheikh – Lewisham Council portfolio holder for Communities

   Expressed her thanks to Age YK L&S as a helpful and powerful partner. She stated that Lewisham are breaking the mould of how the council and community organisation work together. Recognising that we need to work together to tackle a rising need in the community.

   Cllr. Evelyn Akoto Portfolio Holder for Wellbeing and Communities

   Expressed her gratitude for AGE UK L&S and the COPSINNS partners for their work in partnership with each other and the council since COVID. This has led to setting up Warm Hubs as well as other initiatives that support our local community to thrive.

4. Minutes of AGM 4th December 2024 for approval

   Katy King stated that her apologies were missing from the last set of AGM minutes.
   Proposed by Marcia Purnell and Seconded by Katy King. Approved by the meeting

5. Presentation of Accounts 2024/25

   Proposed by Maria Koglou and seconded by Marcia Purnell
   Philippe Granger Spoke to the accounts explaining that there is a significant difference between expenditure and income and that the board and senior leaders are working to bring financial stability to the charity.

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6. Re-appointment of Auditor for approval (Goldwins)

   This was agreed by the meeting

7. Election of Trustees

   Chinesa Uyanna was elected as a new trustee and will take up the post of Treasurer

8. Thank you to retiring Trustees

   Philippe thanked two trustees who have stood down during the financial year.
   John Hodgeson for his may years of service to the trustees and charity.
   Maria Koglou was also thanked for her significant contribution to the charity in recent years.

9. CEO Update –overview and future plans.

   Chris thanked the staff, volunteers and trustees for the welcome he received since joining the charity in June. He gave a presentation on our statistics for the year. In addition he shared thoughts on continuing to grow as a values led charity, focusing on positive impacts, increasing respect, dignity and wellbeing.
   He started the talk with a quote from Mark Twain
   'Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many.'

10. Genevie George – Lewisham Commissioner
    Genevie gave a thank you to the charity and especially to the CCL team for the way they worked in partnership with the council through a challenging financial situation. She is looking to work with the new partnership as they develop a role for the voluntary sector as the new working arrangements start in April 2026.

11. Any other business

    There were not items of other business.

12. Close

    Philippe thanked people for attending and for the positive support for the charity and encouraged people to stay after the meeting for curry and conversation.
    Philippe then closed the meeting.

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