

Singles Event



ambition
for
ageing
tameside

Evaluation Report

August 2017

A

cknowledgements

A huge thanks to the volunteers who gave up their time and a big thank you to those who returned the questionnaires.

- Jacqui Greenfield
- David Sharples
- Ruth Madden
- Sandra Jackson

Volunteers

- Maria Walsh
- Stephen Holloway
- Alex Cowden
- Age UK Tameside
- Emma Longshaw
- Diane Worthington

For further information about this research contact either:-

Ruth Madden at ruth.madden@actiontogether.org.uk or
Sandra Jackson at sandra.jackson@actiontogether.org.uk

Action Together

95 - 97 Penny Meadow

Ashton Under Lyne

OL6 6EP

Tel: 0161 339 2345

I ntroduction



On 22nd July 2016 Ambition for Ageing carried out a launch event at Haughton Green Methodist Church, which is in the Denton South Ward in Tameside. During this launch event we spoke to local residents and asked them:

What they loved about living in Denton South?

What they would like to see improved in their area as they grow older?

There were 2 comments that people aged 50 plus said they would like to see improved which were:-

Pairing up for dog walking

Somebody to talk to - companionship

On the 23rd July 2016 Age UK Tameside received a telephone call from a gentleman who had attended the event asking if he could have the contact for one of the ladies that had also attended. He explained that he hadn't met her before but that he would be interested in getting to know her better. Because of Data Protection issues we were unable to give him her contact details, this conversation led to our first Single's Event in January 2017.

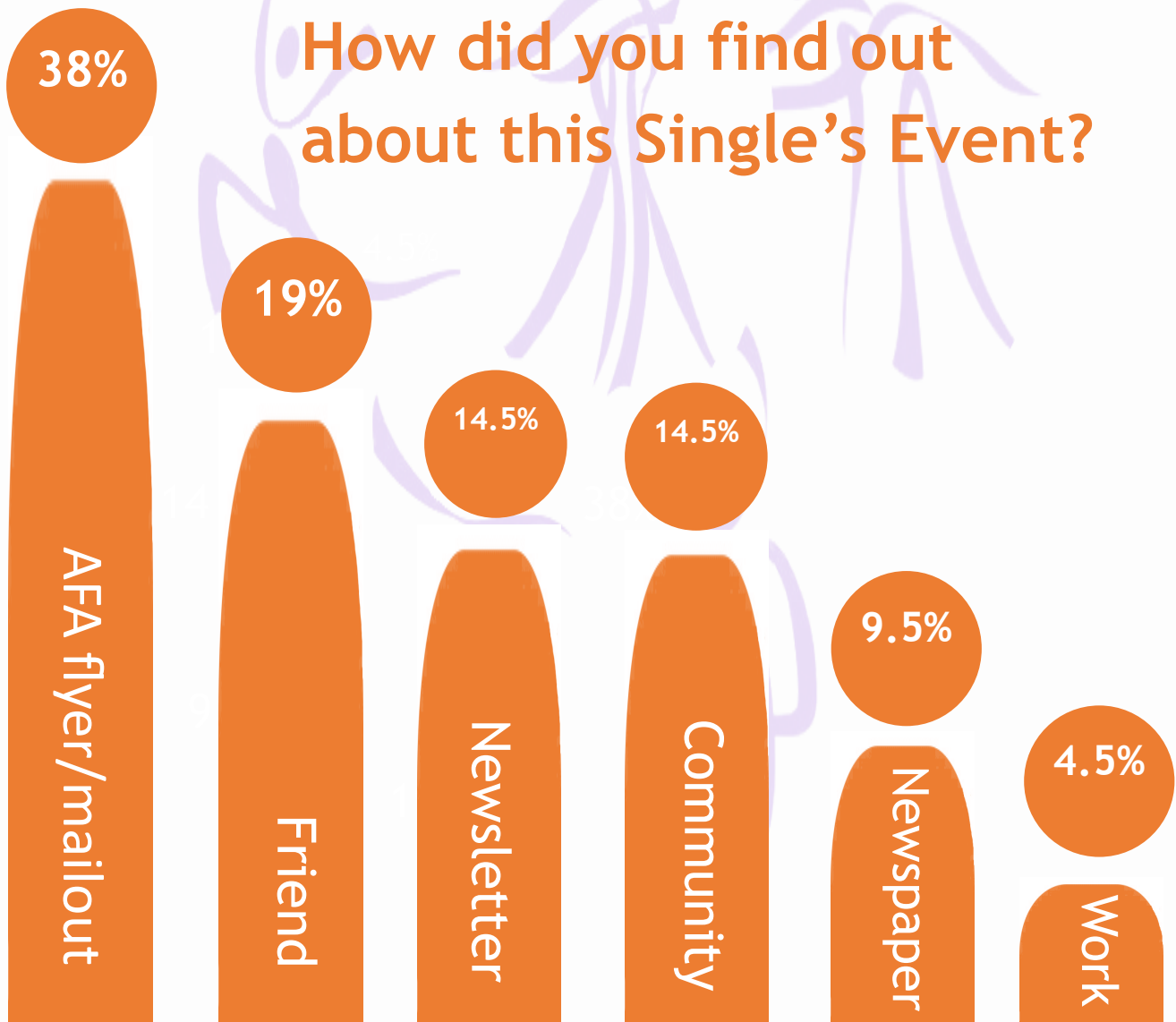
This first event attracted 64 people and was held in Audenshaw, very close to Denton South. Some people did make connections on the evening and were very keen to find out when the next event was taking place.

Following the event a survey was sent to those who attended. The majority of people who said they enjoyed the event and that they would like to see another one taking place. Some of the people also said they would be interested in getting involved to plan the next event. In April 2017 we invited a group of people who had expressed interest to help us plan the next Singles Event. This second event took place in Ashton Under Lyne, one of the Tameside wards. The singles event was held here for various reasons, firstly to attract more people from the Waterloo area of Tameside, the venue was free thus reducing the expenditure and the venue had access to a quiet area so people were able to talk.

After this event we sent a further questionnaire out the results of which were:

S tistics

How did you find out about this Single's Event?



S tistics



Who or what made the night enjoyable?

47%

The staff /
hosts

16%

The
atmosphere

14.5%

10.5%
The mix
of people

38%

10.5%
Meeting
new people

5%

Friends

5%

Quiz

5%

music

5%

Did not
answer

S tistics

What did you really enjoy about the Singles Event?

“I enjoyed the hosting and the feeling of being included and very much welcomed. There was a lot of fun activity, Quiz and good music to dance to”

“Drinking a pint of Guinness. I don’t dance and I am a quiet person. The DJ was very good and the quiz was good, our table won the box of toffees!”

“ I enjoyed the quiz as it was a joint effort. The music was suitable for everyone.”

“A warm relaxed atmosphere, meeting new friends”

“It was nice to go out for the evening”

“ Everyone seemed out for a good time and were very friendly”.

“I attended on my own and I was made to feel I was among friends”

“The dancing, the music and meeting some of the ladies”

“I was really nervous about being at a single’s night because the reason I went was to meet people, not necessarily the opposite sex and I thought there might be some sort of pressure to do that. I was very pleased that this was not the case”.

“The mixture of people”

Q uotes



What or who made it so enjoyable?

“I was made to feel welcomed the minute I turned up on my own and the lady at the door straight away introduced me to other ladies. I felt at ease and very much included in the whole event. I’ve been to many single’s night on my own and I can honestly say that this event was by far the most friendly, sociable fun nights I have ever attended”.

“Organisers extremely busy and enthusiastic, introductions etc. All welcome and necessary at this type of function”.

“Many thanks to Ambition For Ageing. At present I am reading your newsletter”.

“Being sat with a mixture of people, male and female. Getting to know them by casually talking”

“A nice welcome from the team, the music” “The Quiz!”
“A great night out to meet different people” “Relaxed atmosphere”

Q uotes



“Thank you for your time and energy in arranging this event - it was evident that many people enjoyed it.

While I appreciate that for some your planned evening will have been an enjoyable event, I found it frustrating and isolating and wish I had declined. My hearing is not great so I find it difficult conversing in noisy pubs, etc. Should I wish to listen to music I can do that selectively, at home or at a concert”.

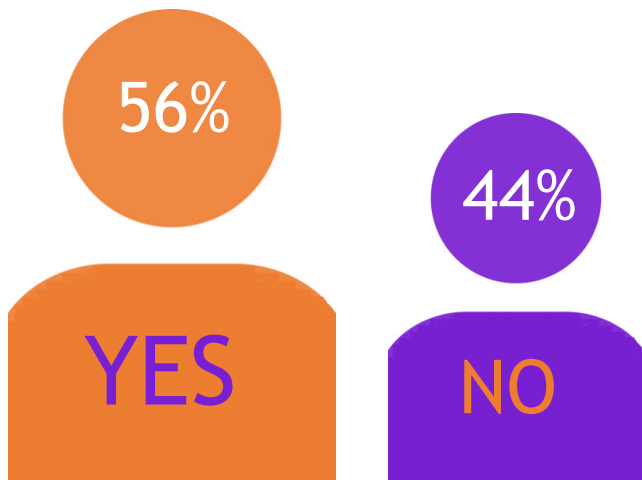
“I did enjoy talking and dancing. Also the organisers made a real effort to make the event worthwhile. I do think the organisers go to great lengths to get everyone motivated”

“I enjoyed the quiz because it was a joint effort. The music was suitable for everyone. The idea to get everyone to mingle was a good idea”.

S tistics



Did you form any new friendships or relationships after attending the singles event?



Would you be interested in organising future events with support from Ambition For Ageing Tameside?

59% said **YES**

S tistics



Of those who responded to the survey

50% were female

50% were male

72

people
attended
the event
at The
Broadoak
Hotel

21

people
responded
to the post
evaluation
survey

11

people
expressed
interest in
forming to
form a
group to
plan
future
events

O utcomes



This singles event has had a positive effect on those that attended.

56% of those that attended the event have formed new relationships or friendships and 59% of those that returned their questionnaire said they would be interested in organising the next singles event.

A meeting with those interested parties was held on Tuesday 15th August 2017. 6 people who had attended the second Singles event came along to the meeting.

This group of people reported that one of the singles event they usually attended, based in Stockport, had closed down. Therefore, there is an appetite to see something else set up on a regular basis that can cater for the needs of single people over the age of 50 who live in Tameside and particularly in the Wards that Ambition for Ageing covers.

It was agreed by all those present that the next event that was carried out needed to allow people to chat. Following discussions with the group an idea of a social meal was agreed.

The group also said that Christmas would be a good opportunity to host another Disco and invite all past participants.

One of the men in attendance has been tasked to find out what restaurants there are in Denton and approach the businesses to find out if they would be willing to host an evening event for those interested in attending a meal.

Ambition for Ageing is hoping for the opportunity to invest in this group as it develops into an independent social group.

Watch this space!