



**Scottish  
Older  
People's  
Assembly**

**SOPA 2016 Assembly  
Scottish Parliament  
Friday 25th November  
11.00 - 3.30**

## **Registration**

This starts from 10.30 at the Scottish Parliament Reception. From there you will be escorted to the Members Room where refreshments are served, you will be given the Assembly Programme and you can view the exhibition stands by Action on Elder Abuse Scotland, Care Inspectorate, Citizens Advice Scotland and RNIB Scotland in nearby Committee Rooms 4 and 5. Proceedings will begin at 11.15 sharp and finish at 13.00 for lunch.

## **2016 Assembly**

At the Assembly it is our intention to continue building constructive dialogue on the experiences that older people have of national policies and legislation. We will also cover concerns raised by older people during the 2015 Assembly. These are:

### **Funeral Poverty**

**Negative impact of major changes to the State Pension**

**Opportunities for active citizenship**

**Improved quality of life for older people cared for in a home and 'at home' through community links**

**Older representatives on all Integrated Joint Boards**

**Care workers to be respected, well paid and trained to the highest standard**

**Psychological and therapeutic services**

**for people over 65 should be funded**

**on a par with 'adult' services**

## **Morning session**

The morning session will be chaired by Presiding Officer Ken Mackintosh.

Speeches will be delivered by

Tom Berney, SOPA Chair

Neil Findlay MSP, Convener of the Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee

Jeane Freeman MSP Minister for Social Security

John McCormick, Commissioner for Parliamentary Reform.

This will be followed by a time limited question and answer session and presentations by older people.

## Afternoon session

This begins at 14.00 and will be chaired by Christina McKelvie MSP Convener of the Scottish Parliament's Equalities and Human Rights Committee. She will deliver her speech and take questions and comments. Afterwards an interactive session between the Health and Sport Committee members and SOPA delegates will deal with the question below. Please consider this and be ready to give the Assembly the benefit of your experience:-

## Interactive session

The Health and Sport Committee has as one of its strategic objectives the reduction of ill-health and health inequalities by encouraging preventative care. What measures do you believe could help to achieve that?

For example:-

- How to postpone or prevent chronic illness, disease and admission to hospital
- How to anticipate such problems and offer practical information and help at an early stage
- How to overcome isolation and to improve uptake through more personalised and attractive support services.

Please also mention any examples of good practice that you know of.

We are looking forward to meeting you again but do let us know, if you cannot attend by **calling 0131 281 0875** or **emailing [glenda@scotopa.org.uk](mailto:glenda@scotopa.org.uk)** as this will allow others to participate.

