

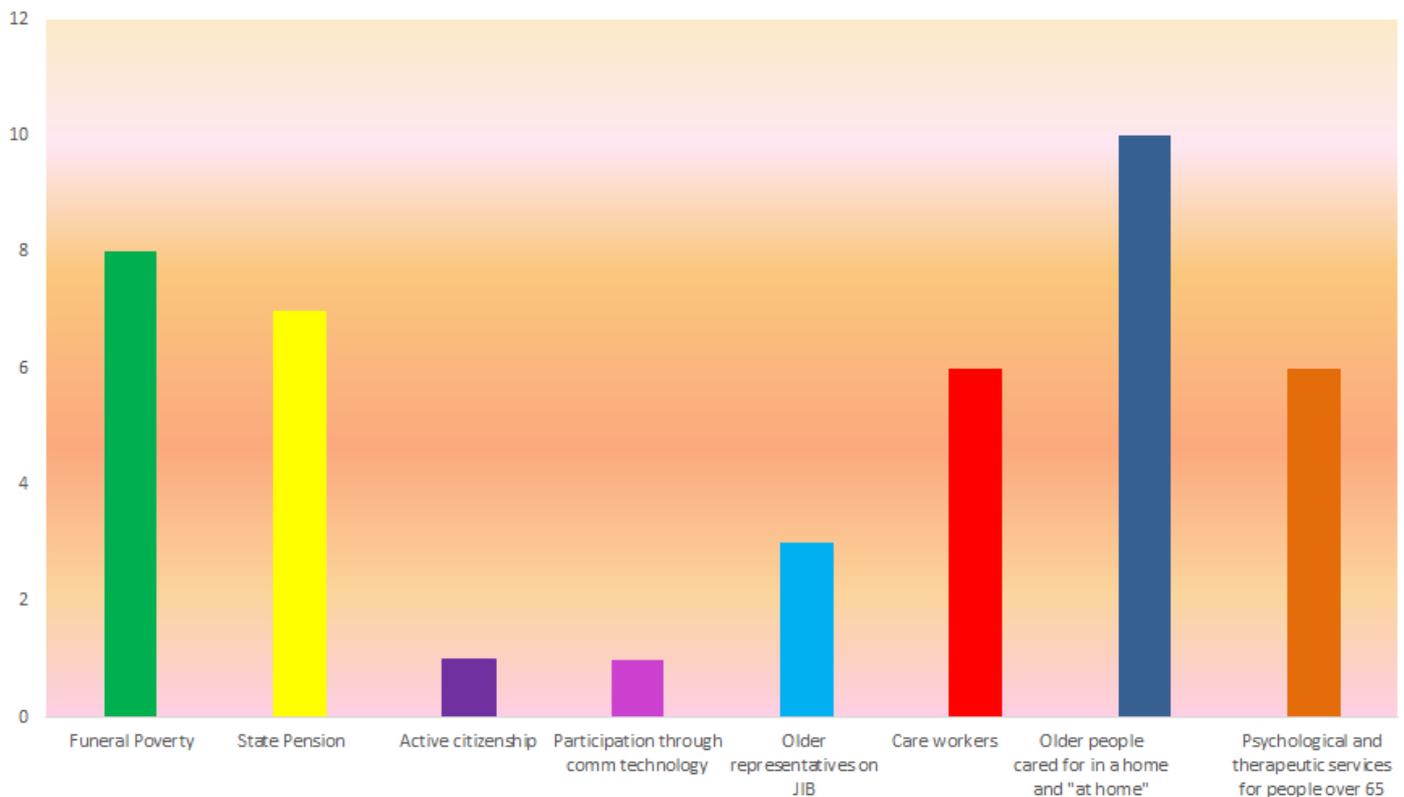
Campbeltown saw the first gathering of older people, some from South Kintyre Seniors' Forum, for a series of meetings around Scotland between July and October 2016. The format included a welcome and an introduction by Ian McVicar Argyle and Bute Third Sector Interface and Age Scotland, and a presentation by Tom Berney, SOPA Chair, on the growing role of SOPA in supporting and challenging policy. 29 participants (4 TSI - Third Sector Interface workers and 25 older people) discussed their concerns, the SOPA Campaign issues 2016, and then their priorities on the campaign list.

### Results from 17 returned standard forms.

This question was addressed: *"In terms of SOPA's Campaign Issues 2016 which of the following actions would you support by inserting 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, against the list below? 1 being the top priority"*.

Some people gave priority 1 to more than one Campaign Issue. All of the priorities are included in the totals shown below in Figure 1.

Fig.1



SOPA Campaign Issues are below, with the number of votes for each one (priority 1) in brackets:

- Reduce funeral poverty through funded developments and promotion of social enterprise funeral arrangements (8)
- Raise awareness of the negative impact of major changes to the State Pension (7)
- Promote the need for funded programmes to encourage active citizenship in later life (1)
- Improve participation of older adults through funded use of communication technology (1)
- Seek to have older representatives on all Joint Integrated Boards (3)
- Emphasise the need for care workers to be respected, well paid and trained to highest standard (6)
- Highlight the importance of improved quality of life for older people cared for in a home and 'at home' through links to the community (10)
- Psychological and therapeutic services for people over 65 should be funded on a par with 'adult' services (6)

### Comments on the meeting

20 participants completed an evaluation form and of this number:

- 70% valued the meeting as very useful and extremely useful
- many appreciated finding out about SOPA, meeting other people and discussing various topics
- a few participants felt that more time was needed for Q&A and discussion
- one person suggested that large print should be provided
- two persons complained about poor/intermittent microphone
- one person suggested that the speakers could have circulated around the tables (this did take place)
- one person said there were too many forms
- one person said the catering was excessive

*"Informative, they were genuinely interested in the issues being raised."*

*"Excellent speaker."*

*"It opened my eyes to quite a few things such as my pension."*

*"Very interesting company and helpful."*

*"I am glad I came and I have some things to think about now."*

*"Information perhaps not known before."*

*"I am sure good things will happen."*

*"Information is knowledge!"*

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**The Scottish Older People's Assembly is a  
'voice' for older people.**

### Points covered Tom Berney and participants:

- ✓ Isolation - half of people over 75 live alone
- ✓ UK pension and retirement compares badly with other countries
- ✓ Older people's contribution – in Argyll & Bute 48% of health care workers are aged 50+ and 10,790 unpaid carers and 3,461 volunteers \*
- ✓ £5.5 bn in state benefits are under claimed ensure you check your entitlements
- ✓ SOPA's purpose is to enable and encourage older people to speak of their experiences and concerns
- ✓ SOPA's success in listening to older people at grassroots and taking their concerns to Scottish and Westminster Governments
- ✓ SOPA's contribution to national policy
- ✓ SOPA's determination to tackle inequalities and discrimination towards older people
- ✓ Local concern that carers and family are prohibited in visiting loved ones in Glasgow hospitals due to the length and cost of travel
- ✓ Local concern that local hospital wards are closing
- ✓ Concern that older people and carers do not know what is available to help them in times of need
- ✓ Lack of computer / technological learning opportunities
- ✓ Infrequent rubbish collections
- ✓ NB In case of emergencies – ICE - insert personal detail into mobile phone.

\*Reference Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Outline Strategic Partnership Plan 2016/17-2019/2020



Campbeltown meeting on 15 July 2016