

Carnoustie was part of a series of meetings for older people and their groups around Scotland between January and June 2015. The format included a Welcome by Deputy Provost Alex King, and a presentation by Tom Berney, SOPA Chair on the growing role of SOPA in supporting and challenging policy. 31 participants discussed Action Plan 2015 statements and identified their priorities. Then these questions were addressed:

How can SOPA work with you? and How can you work with SOPA?.

SOPA's Communication Adviser, raised awareness of events in the local press and media, and publicised them afterwards on SOPA's Facebook site - <https://www.facebook.com/scotopa>

Results from 29 returned standard forms.

Some people gave priority to more than one action from each topic and all of these priorities are included in the totals shown below in Figure 1. The top five priorities are shown in Figure 2¹.

Fig.1

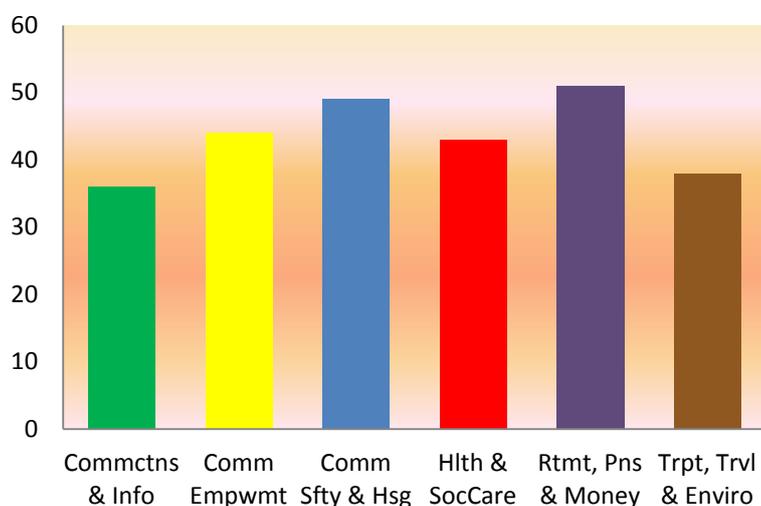
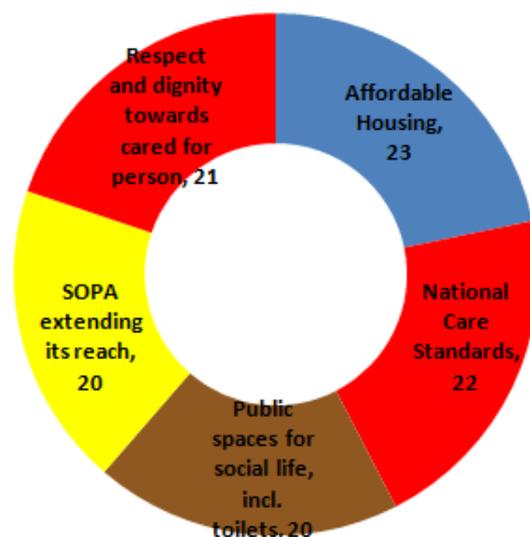


Fig.2



The action points break down as follows, with the number of votes in brackets:

Communications & Information: accessible Internet access (10), solidarity between generations (11), and SOPA reaching out to groups of older people (15)

Community Empowerment: clear communication on how the Community Empowerment (CE) (Scotland) Bill will operate (14), reach out to the LGBT community and ethnic groups (10) and SOPA extending its reach to as many older people as possible (20)

Community Safety and Housing: all communities have access to affordable housing (23), street safety - traffic control and a police presence (11), clear comparisons between energy companies (15)

Health and Social Care: respect and dignity towards cared-for people (21), National Care Standards (22)

Retirement, Pensions and Money: pensions concerns over flat rate (15), expense of funerals (17), acknowledgement of unpaid carers and savings to the national purse (19)

Transport, Travel and Environment: integrated travel policy (18), public spaces for social life - including rest areas and toilets (20)

¹ A full ranking of priorities is available on request.

Comments on the meeting

27 participants completed an evaluation form and of this number:

- over 80% valued the meeting as useful and extremely useful
- many appreciated meeting other people and discussing the various topics
- three people suggested that the speeches were too long

"I now understand what SOPA is and how to contribute to it. I have had a good chance to contribute my views and hear from others."

"Interesting, very well presented, structured, informative."

"(What I liked best about the meeting was) the information cascaded about SOPA, also about older people and their contribution to society. A friendly informative and enjoyable meeting which allowed sharing of information and ideas."

"Good discussion and contributions from participants."

"More of the same please!"

SOPA Co-ordinator Glenda Watt

glenda.watt@edinburgh.gov.uk

The City of Edinburgh Council,
Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street,
Edinburgh EH8 8BG
t: 0131 469 3806

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

Visit the SOPA website for up-to-date
information about events and activities.

www.scotopa.org.uk

How SOPA can work with local groups

Suggestions focused on communications and contributing to local activity:

- ✓ More communication about SOPA and what it is doing
- ✓ Spread information
- ✓ More feedback on future developments and results
- ✓ A form with newsletter for means of feedback
- ✓ Send newsletter to all establishments which deal with older people.

How the local group can work better with SOPA

Suggestions focused on assisting local participation, gathering local evidence and sharing information:

- ✓ Spread the word to keep older people informed
- ✓ Create an Angus sub group
- ✓ Establish a network to allow people to respond periodically to topical questions either by email or questionnaires
- ✓ Create a forum which could compile issues received from the community and present these to SOPA
- ✓ Be more community aware and address and present issues at regular meetings
- ✓ Feedback on form sent with newsletter.



Carnoustie meeting on 24 June 2015