

Scottish Older People's Assembly, Turriff

Turriff was part of a series of meetings for older people's groups around Scotland between January and April 2015. The format included an introduction by John Smith U3A, Turriff and a presentation by Tom Berney, SOPA Chair on the growing role of SOPA in supporting and challenging policy. 25 participants from the U3A discussed Action Plan 2015 statements and identified their priorities. Due to time constraints it was not possible to address the following questions that had been discussed at other SOPA meetings:

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 13 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 four priorities are shown in Figure 2 ¹.

Fig.1

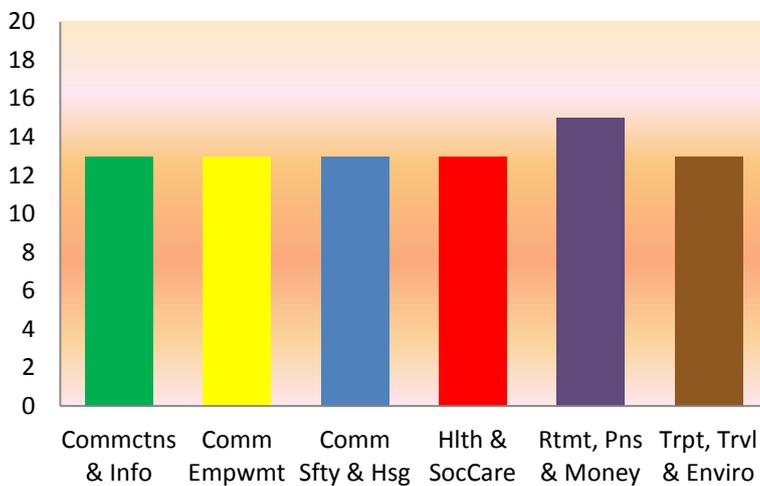
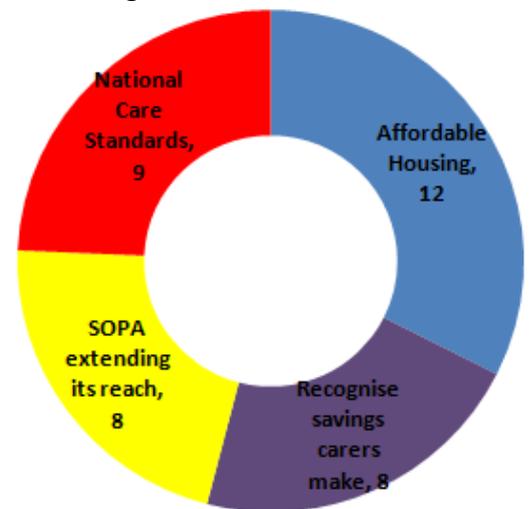


Fig.2



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

Communications & Information: accessible Internet access (2), solidarity between generations (6), and SOPA reaching out to groups of older people (5)

Community Empowerment: clear communication on how the Community Empowerment (CE) (Scotland) Bill will operate (5), reach out to the LGBT community and ethnic groups (0) and SOPA extending its reach to as many older people as possible (5)

Community Safety and Housing: all communities have access to affordable housing (12), street safety - traffic control and a police presence (1), clear comparisons between energy companies (0)

Health and Social Care: respect and dignity towards cared-for people (4), National Care Standards (9)

Retirement, Pensions and Money: pensions concerns over flat rate (6), expense of funerals (1), acknowledgement of unpaid carers and savings to the national purse (8)

Transport, Travel and Environment: integrated travel policy (9), public spaces for social life - including rest areas and toilets (4)

¹ A full ranking of priorities is available on request.

Comments on the meeting

The group were appreciative of Tom's presentation and the fact that he had travelled a distance to meet everyone.

"a helpful and interesting meeting"

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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

SOPA is willing to work with older people in Turriff and would be delighted, if someone could be elected to attend the SOPA Committee.