

The Scottish Older People's Assembly Committee
Thursday 19 June 2014
1.30pm - 3.30pm
The City of Edinburgh Council, Waverley Court

Note of Meeting

Participants

Tom Berney	Chairperson & U3A Scotland
Glenda Watt	Co-ordinator & City of Edinburgh Council
Paul Adams	Age Scotland
Barbara Barnes	Alzheimer Scotland
Helen Biggins	Seniors Together South Lanarkshire
Val Bissland	Centre for Life Long Learning, University of Strathclyde
Alison Clyde	Generations Working Together
Diana Findlay	Borders Elder Voice
Donald Macleod	Highland Senior Citizens Network
Agnes McGroarty	Scottish Seniors Alliance
Bashir Malik	Interfaith Association
Tim Puntis	LGBT Age
Rohini Sharma Joshi	Trust Housing Association
Christine Wilson	Human Development Scotland
John White	Dumfries and Galloway Seniors Forum & Public Patient and Participation Forum
Marjory Kenny	In attendance

Apologies

Brid Cullen	National Forum on Older Volunteering
Yvonne Coull	Futures Forum
David Hamilton	Scottish Government, Equalities Unit
Rose Jackson	Scottish Trades Union Council
Mike Liddle	Scottish Government
Liz O'Neill	Vice Chairperson and Mental Health and Wellbeing in Later Life
Margaret Murdoch	Scottish Pensioners Forum
Alan Sidaway	National Pensioners Convention Scotland
	Faith in Older People
Peter McColl	Royal Voluntary Service

1. Chairperson's opening remarks

- 1.1 Tom welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Paul Adams who is the chairperson of Age Scotland. Paul replaces Brian Sloan as Age Scotland's representative on SOPA. Tom highlighted statistics that he had presented to the Seniors Together, South Lanarkshire meeting on 13 June 2014. The information indicates that older people who are spenders, tax-payers, carers and volunteers provide a 'longevity dividend' to Scottish society. He hoped that others would speak of this as a reminder that older people are not a burden and should not be stereotyped as such. He thanked members for submitting brief profiles of their organisations and asked that others do the same. Once again he invited members to bring forward any issues that concern their groups. He complimented the Highland Senior Citizens Network on the excellent consultation they had conducted with people who use care services.

2. Draft Note of Meeting 3 April 2014 and Matters Arising

- 2.1 The Note of the last meeting was accepted.
- 2.2 As the revised protocol is to be SOPA's Constitution and not a strategy, it was suggested and accepted that sections 5.3 be strengthened, sections 10.3 and 10.4 are amalgamated and reduced with a reference to SOPA's strategy and that an additional point is inserted at 9.10 to ensure the link between SOPA and similar organisations in the UK, Europe and the rest of the world. With these amendments the Draft Constitution was accepted. TP commended the paragraph on equality and diversity in the draft document.
- 2.3 GW outlined the plan for the SOPA workshop on 4th July 2014 at CoSLA to include speakers and discussion on Human Rights and the Community Empowerment Bill (Scotland). This will be followed by lunch and detailed discussion on the event in the Scottish Parliament on 31 October 2014.

3. SOPA Strategy Action Plan

- 3.1 GW spoke to the SOPA Action Plan which has been updated to include reference to forward planning for SOPA, important issues in later life and how SOPA can reach vulnerable, less informed older people who may have difficulties expressing their views. These points were raised in the discussion on the draft Constitution.

4. SOPA Draft Communication Plan

- 4.1 TB welcomed Marjory Kenny to the meeting who has been appointed, through a Council's procurement exercise to work with the Committee to deliver SOPA's Communication Plan. Marjory outlined the Assembly communication aims, topics to inform key messages, stakeholders and audience, channels of communication, branding and a timeline for delivery. Marjory also spoke of how the Committee can contribute to the media and communications work by contacting her directly to identify;
- Champions
 - Human interest stories
 - Supporter groups
 - Media contacts
 - Being active on social media and using your own networks

5. Cabinet Minister Shona Robison, MSP

- 5.1 GW spoke of two separate occasions when the Cabinet Minister had spoken of SOPA in the Scottish Parliament. One is outlined on the SOPA website.
- 5.2 In response to a letter from TB to the Cabinet Minister, Ms Robison's private secretary had replied inviting Tom to arrange a meeting with her. The Committee noted that the Referendum date was near and that all political parties would cease campaigning on 22 August 2014. This item will be discussed again at the SOPA Workshop.

5.3 TB emphasised the importance of pre meetings prior to discussions with the Minister.

AOCB

- Tom reported that he had recently attended a UKAFA (UK Advisory Forum on Ageing) meeting in London at which there had been presentations from the Minister of State for Pensions, Minister of State for Care and Support and the Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland. He would circulate a short note of comments to the committee.
- Alison Clyde will forward SOPA information and the SOPA Question to Deaf Blind Scotland.
- Age Scotland and Scottish Seniors Alliance are joining forces to organise five consultation meetings on Scotland's proposed care standards.
- Age Scotland is planning a series of meetings with older people to gather their views on issues of importance to them. This will inform Age Scotland's future policies.
- Rohini presented a publication entitled Scottish Memories. Immigration stories that began over 50 years ago, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- Agnes McGroarty suggested that another SOPA meeting be held in Glasgow.

Date of Next Meeting

The next SOPA Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 21 August 2014 1.30 – 3.30 following a workshop with the Electoral Reform Society.

Thursday 16th October 2014 1.30 – 3.30 Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh

Thursday 11th December 2014 1.30 – 3.30. Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh