

**The Scottish Older People's Assembly Committee
Workshop
Friday 04 July 2014
10:30 – 15:30
CoSLA Verity House**

Note of Meeting

Participants

Tom Berney	Chairperson & U3A Scotland
Glenda Watt	Co-ordinator & City of Edinburgh Council
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
Tim Puntis	LGBT Age
Christine Wilson	Human Development Scotland
John White	Dumfries and Galloway Seniors Forum & Public Patient and Participation Forum
Alan Sidaway	National Pensioners Convention Scotland
David Hamilton	Scottish Government, Equalities Unit
Trevor Owen	Scottish Government, Equalities Unit
Ian Turner	Scottish Government,
Leaghann Watson	City of Edinburgh Council
Rose Jackson	Scottish Trades Union Council
Betty Milton	A City for All Ages Advisory Group
Deirdre Flanigan	Scottish Human Rights Commission

Apologies

Brid Cullen	National Forum on Older Volunteering
Paul Adams	Age Scotland
Barbara Barnes	Alzheimer Scotland
Margaret Murdoch	Scottish Pensioners Forum
Rohini Sharma Joshi	Trust Housing Association
Mike Liddle	Scottish Government
Liz O'Neill	Vice Chairperson and Mental Health and Wellbeing in Later Life
Peter McColl	Royal Voluntary Service
Hanna Lister	Age Scotland
Bashir Malik	Interfaith Association

1. Chairperson's opening remarks

- 1.1 Tom welcomed everyone, particularly Betty Milton who attended her first SOPA meeting. Tom set out the format for the workshop advising

that after the presentation from the Scottish Human Rights Commission, the Scottish Government on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill and lunch, everyone would join in a discussion on the Assembly.

2. Scottish Human Rights Commission

2.1 DF described the work of the Scottish Human Rights Commission.

The Scottish Human Rights Commission promotes and protects the human rights of everyone in Scotland. The Commission is working to increase awareness, recognition and respect for human rights, and make them more relevant and easier to apply in everyday life. The Commission is dedicated to helping everyone understand their rights and the shared responsibilities we all have to each other and to our community. The Commission is independent of the UK and Scottish Parliaments and Governments.

What are human rights?

Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms which everyone, including older people is entitled to in order to live with dignity.

Human rights demand recognition and respect for the inherent dignity and value of every human being, and provide the shared values and the legal basis to ensure that everyone is protected against abuses which undermine their dignity, and give the opportunities they need to realise their full potential, free from discrimination.

Human rights include civil and political rights, such as:

- The right to freedom of expression
- The right to freedom of religion or conscience
- The right to property
- The right to freedom of assembly
- The right to privacy
- The right to vote.

Human rights also cover economic and social rights, such as:

- The right to an adequate standard of living
- The right to adequate food, housing, water and sanitation
- The rights you have at work
- The right to education.

Human Rights and Older People

The Scottish Human Rights Commission has developed training and awareness raising resources relating to the care and support of older people. This project aims to empower people to understand their human rights, and increase the ability and accountability of those who have the duties to respect, protect and fulfill rights.

In Scotland the population is ageing - there will be choices about how resources are spent by different public authorities, and in the services offered by public, private and voluntary groups. The Commission would like to see a commitment to human rights becoming central in everyday practice and policy in the care and support of older people. More information can be found at <http://www.scottishhumanrights.com>

DF noted that there are lots of opportunities and goodwill just now to advance human rights in health and social care in Scotland, such as in the integration of health and social care, but there is also lots of urgency, for example, there are several on-going investigations in Edinburgh alone into preventable deaths in care homes – which should make us question whether we are doing enough to prevent real risks to lives of people in vulnerable situations – a right to life issue. As well as this we have hundreds of thousands of carers both (low) paid and unpaid who are performing an incredible public service often at cost to their own health or standard of living (and differentials in terms of kinship carers, often grandparents who may not be recognised as formal carers), which should make us think about whether we are doing enough to protect the right to an adequate standard of living of carers and finally we have both risks and opportunities linked to moves towards self-directed support at a time where care budgets generally are falling.

TB thanked DF for her presentation and concluded by saying it is important to remember how far this society has progressed though people are still dying to achieve these rights in different countries around the world.

3. Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill

- 3.1 Ian Turner (IT) of the Scottish Government provided an overview of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill, a copy of his PowerPoint is attached. On 11th June 2014 the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament and has now been published. A link to the Bill, as well as documents relating to the history of the Bill, can be found below.

[Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

[Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Bill: Explanatory Notes](#)

[Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Bill: Policy Memorandum](#)

[Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Bill: The Scottish Parliament](#)

The Bill aims to support communities to do things for themselves – community empowerment – and for people to have their voices heard in the planning and delivery of services – community engagement and participation.

It is envisaged that where communities are empowered and supported, it is expected that a range of benefits will emerge, such as local democratic participation boosted; increased confidence and skills among local people; higher numbers of people volunteering in their communities; and more satisfaction with quality of life in a local neighbourhood. A number of examples were provided.

TB thanked Ian for his presentation and concluded by stating that the SOPA link to this Bill is more likely to lie in the community empowerment, engagement and planning area of the Bill. He noted that as the Bill is into the 2nd Stage any comments on it are due to be returned to the Scottish Parliament and not the Scottish Government.

4. Committee's vision for the perfect assembly

- 4.1 GW introduced the task where each person had to write down their vision for a perfect assembly. GW gave the outline programme of the Assembly and visions were recorded and discussed as listed below.

The Visions

- Agreed number of participants in attendance 200
- Older people made a contribution.
- All MSP's who were invited attend
- Workshop participants told us how to tackle some real concerns that older people have in Scotland
- Participants stated that it was a worthwhile experience
- All technology worked
- Roses not raspberries from the participants
- We have compiled a clear set of demands for practical and actual improvement in the lives of older people AND we have drawn up practical tactics on how to realise them even if ministers are reluctant to grant them
- Everyone goes home committed to delivering these objectives
- Objective – good discussion, information, policy

- Successful day – lots of people able to air their concerns and put forward ideas, hopefully allowed them to feel fully engaged.
- The Scottish Parliament is a challenging building to work around
- To make a difference
- Having a clear and defined purpose
- Raise SOPA profile
- Loads of discussion and engagement from participants
- Everybody raised their grievances
- All questions were answered
- All hand raisers had their say
- More voices from “the body of the Kirk”
- Less red tape
- Action Points we know will be followed through because they are SMART ones, responsive, animated, purposeful and congenial – as below.
 - ◆ Specific
 - ◆ Measurable
 - ◆ Achievable
 - ◆ Realistic
 - ◆ Timed
- Participants know they have communicated what they wanted
- Minister announcing a stunning policy/practical change a’la Carers Parliament in 2013
- Voices of all older people were heard, including the hard to reach community and those with long term conditions, disabilities and deaf blind community.
- Somewhere in the day older people spoke about the benefits of being involved in intergenerational projects/activities.
- An easy to understand way on how Scottish Human Rights can help older people like me.
- Coming together as one voice
- All contributors kept to time
- I was able to hear and see everything that was going on
- We were enabled and encourage to speak out and participate
- The facilitators had been well briefed
- The signers and loop system for the hearing impaired and deaf was helpful
- The seating arrangements were comfortable
- The plenary session at the end allowed all to speak
- The lunch was perfect

- Full discussion around the community empowerment so there is a clear understanding of this proposed law and how we can use this for the benefit of our communities
- A gathering together of thoughts and actions which will benefit all sections of communities
- Ensuring that everyone who wanted to speak had a chance to do so
- There were some clear outcomes to take forward to government and to participant organisations
- There was evidence of actions taking place
- The idea of intergenerational solidarity was promoted
- Participation by assembly attendees and not just listening to evidence
- People who were there will embrace change such as community empowerment
- Discussion by older people of intergenerational solidarity
- Everybody's ideas were on the same lines and it was full of agreements with no arguments on all subjects, with fairness and betterment for the welfare of all older people

During discussion, the following points were agreed;

- Check out use of the Scottish Parliament's Public Gallery for people who want to watch the main chamber sessions
- 200 people will be invited to attend the event
- Gather and demonstrate the voices of older people by developing graphic and pictorial posters of what older people have told SOPA. Display these in the reception/ entrance area of Scottish Parliament.
- Ensure a generational presence – invite members of the Scottish Youth Parliament to the event
- Tom Berney's speech to include actions and achievements over the last year, some clear demands of the Ministers and the fact that significant numbers of older people make a contribution to the Scottish economy
- Further discuss and develop small group discussion in each Committee workshop. People will move from one flip chart to another to address the questions raised.
- Key messages from the workshops will be fed back to the Plenary Session.
- The Panel for the Plenary session may consist of high level civil servants / CoSLA and other officials who have the power to make a change