

**The Scottish Older People's Assembly Development Meeting
Thursday 11th December 2014 1.30pm - 3.30pm
The City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers**

Note of Meeting

Participants

Tom Berney	Chairperson & U3A Scotland
Glenda Watt	Co-ordinator & City of Edinburgh Council
Val Bissland	Centre for Life Long Learning, University of Strathclyde
Barbara Barnes	Alzheimer Scotland
Helen Biggins	Seniors Together South Lanarkshire
Diana Findley	Borders Elder Voice
Tommy Brennan	Scottish Trades Union Council
Bill Johnston	Scottish Seniors Alliance
Agnes McGroarty	Scottish Seniors Alliance
Alan Sidaway	National Pensioners Convention Scotland
Bashir Malik	Interfaith Association
Jeanette Pieper	Scottish Pensioners Forum
Ian Glover	Scottish Government, Equalities Unit
Trevor Owen	Scottish Government
Donald Macleod	Highland Senior Citizens Network
Betty Milton	A City for All Ages Advisory Group, Edinburgh
Alison Clyde	Generations Working Together
Tim Puntis	LGBT Age, Scotland
Christine Wilson	Human Development Scotland
John White	Dumfries and Galloway Seniors Forum & Public Patient and Participation Forum

In attendance

Marjory Kenny	SOPA Communications Advisor
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Apologies

Eileen Wallace	Stirling Reference Group for Older People
Paul Adams	Age Scotland
Rohini Sharma Joshi	Trust Housing Association
Mike Liddle	Scottish Government, Reshaping Care
Helen Reeves	Celebrate Age Network, Dundee

1. Chairperson's opening remarks

- 1.1 Tom welcomed Tommy Brennan and Bill Johnston who attended the meeting for the first time. Tom thanked everyone for their support and contribution to the Assembly in the Parliament, noting that the formal evaluation was very positive with most of the delegates enjoying the experience.

2. Report from UKAFA – UK Advisory Forum on Ageing

- 2.1 As the SOPA representative on the UK Advisory Forum that meets in Westminster, Tom gave a brief description of his attendance at the last meeting. The role, membership and notes of previous meetings can be found at its website <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-advisory-forum-on-ageing>. He referenced the Welsh Commissioner for Older People, the Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament, updated information from the Minister for Pensions and the recruitment of Financial Advisers and CAB to provide appropriate information and advice to older people on Pensions. Tom said that SOPA has a direct link to Scottish Cabinet Ministers where the older people in Northern Ireland and Wales undertake their work through the Commissioner and a large team of people who are employed in Northern Ireland to run the Pensioners Parliament. He said that many were envious of SOPA but that we should build a relationship with our Celtic neighbours to learn from one another. Tom also referenced a presentation on the Dilnot Report and the European Age Platform on Active Ageing – website <http://www.age-platform.eu/>
John White and Alan Sidaway queried whether or not two places are available for SOPA representatives to attend UKAFA. TB will enquire.
3. **Draft Note of Meeting 16th October 2014 and Matters Arising**
- 3.1 The Note of the last meeting was accepted to include a minor amendment to the date of a previous SOPA meeting
- 3.2 **Holyrood Conference on Ageing Well In Scotland on 2 February 2015.** Tom will be a speaker at this event and five places are offered free of charge to the SOPA Committee. Places are also available for other SOPA people at a reduced cost. Committee members are asked to submit their names to Glenda and a draw will identify who shall receive the free places. An article on SOPA will also appear in the Holyrood Magazine following an interview with Tom.
- 3.4 Glenda highlighted the contents of the Draft SOPA report which provides a summary and detail of the local SOPA meetings and the Assembly in the Parliament. Helen Biggins suggested that comments provided by workshop contributors could also be included. Any other comments should be submitted to Glenda by Monday 15th December so that she and Val Bissland can prepare the SOPA Newsletter for distribution before the festive break. The final report will be presented to Alex Neil MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights. A Committee strategy / development meeting was agreed for Thursday 22 January 2015 from 11.30 – 15.30. Venue tbc. Suggestions for this event should be sent to Glenda.
- 3.5 The Draft evaluation report on SOPA local meetings and its Parliament Assembly was prepared by Edinburgh Napier University Employment Research Unit. Although some comments were received about how to improve the audio aspects of local meetings and how the SOPA Committee should enhance its role and function, the majority of

delegates much appreciated all events. The final report will be uploaded onto the SOPA website soon.

- 3.6 Post Assembly meetings, funded by the Big Lottery will be held in the areas listed below. Committee members are asked to support the meetings where they can.

28th January 2014 – Dalkeith
3rd Feb 2015 – Livingston, West Lothian
10th Feb 2015 Turriff, Aberdeenshire
18th Feb 2015 -Orkney
25th Feb 2015 – Kilmarnock
6th March 2015 - Falkirk
Edinburgh – 12 Feb or 19th March
Angus tbc
North Ayrshire tbc
Glasgow – tbc
Renfrewshire - tbc

4 SOPA 2015/15 Indicative Business Plan

- 4.1 Glenda Watt highlighted the main points of the SOPA Business Plan stating that it had to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 19th December 2014. Suggestions were made by Alison Clyde, Helen Biggins and Donald Macleod (although he was absent DMcL sent an email to Glenda with suggestions) to enhance the plan's viability.

- Continuation of SOPA admin assistant @20hrs per week
- Local meetings as a lead to SOPA event
- Updating of SOPA website
- SOPA Committee capacity building – workshops for knowledge exchange
- Building a working relationship with all political party leaders, Cross Party Group on Older People and Age, COSLA and SCVO
- Recruitment of SOPA Research Assistant to prepare and provide briefing papers
- SOPA Communications and Media Advisor – new tender as per CEC Procurement Guidelines
- SOPA in the Parliament
- Continuation of SOPA Newsletters
- SOPA Committee support – travel, overnight, catering & accommodation
- Exploring options for future hosting arrangements of SOPA

5. SOPA Communication Report and website

- 5.1 Marjory Kenny outlined her media coverage over the local and national assembly meetings. She highlighted links with radio stations and social media and thanked the SOPA Committee for their contributions and especially their appearance on STV after the event in the Parliament. Marjory urged members to consider her recommendations to keep up the SOPA profile. She added that she would be pleased to provide coaching to use social media in a private way. Tom thanked Marjory for her sterling work and said he was delighted about her continued involvement with SOPA until 31 March 2015. With reference to the Newsletter, Val asked committee members to provide a profile statement to could include information of their organisations too.

Dates of future meetings

Thursday 22 January 2015 – 11.00 for 11.30 – 15.30 Strategy / Development event. **Venue tbc**

Thursday 12th February 2015 – 1.30 - 3.30pm, Waverley Court

Thursday 2 April 2015 - 1.30 -3.30pm, Waverley Court