

**Scottish Older People's Assembly Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015**  
**11.30am - 3.30pm**  
**Glasgow City Chambers, George Square**

**Note of Meeting**

**Participants**

Tom Berney	Chairperson & U3A Scotland
Glenda Watt	Co-ordinator & City of Edinburgh Council
Alison Clyde	Generations Working Together
Donald Macleod	Highland Senior Citizens Network
Eileen Wallace	Stirling Reference Group for Older People
Agnes McGroarty	Scottish Seniors Alliance for Bill Johnstone
Betty Milton	A City for All Ages Advisory Group, Edinburgh
Alan Sidaway	National Pensioners Convention Scotland & Vice Chair of SOPA
Tim Puntis	LGBT Age, Scotland
John White	Dumfries and Galloway Seniors Forum
Kay Wood	Make it Happen, Falkirk

**Apologies**

Barbara Barnes	Alzheimer Scotland
Val Bissland	Centre for Life Long Learning, University of Strathclyde
Helen Biggins	Seniors Together South Lanarkshire
Diana Findley	Borders Elder Voice
Ian Glover	Scottish Government, Equalities Unit
Bill Johnston	Scottish Seniors Alliance
Mike Liddle	Scottish Government, Reshaping Care
James Miller	Joint North Ayrshire Elderly Forum
Trevor Owen	Scottish Government, Equalities Unit
Jeanette Pieper	Scottish Pensioners Forum
Helen Reeves	Celebrate Age Network, Dundee
Rohini Sharma Joshi	Trust Housing Association
Christine Wilson	Human Development Scotland

**1. Welcome, Apologies and Opening Remarks,**

Tom welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Kay Wood who attended for the first time. Kay was elected as the representative by the *Make it Happen Form* to participate on the SOPA Committee. Tom remarked on the usefulness of the strategy meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April at COSLA and thanked everyone for their constructive contributions. Tom also referred to a letter of resignation from Tommy Brennan which stated that another person will be elected to represent the STUC on SOPA.

**2. Draft Note of 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 and Matters Arising**

- The Note was approved subject to minor changes being made to the LGBT paragraph on page 4.

- **Appointment of SOPA Chair**

As notified at the previous committee meeting and subsequently by email Tom Berney stated that his 2 year position as Chair of SOPA will terminate in June 2015. Section 4 of the constitution provided that with the agreement of the Committee the Chairman may continue in office for a further two years. Tom said that if it was acceptable to the committee he would be happy to do that. He felt that during his period of office considerable progress had been in SOPA's development. SOPA had begun with an annual Assembly, it now distributed regular newsletters, managed a webpage, had delivered 23 local meetings and a national event in the Scottish Parliament. He added that SOPA now has a presence on a number of national strategic planning groups. All of this had significantly raised its profile and the voice of older people. He said that he would be very happy to continue to work to promote SOPA's development. He then left the room to allow the committee to discuss its decision in his absence.

- Alan Sidaway, Vice Chair took over the proceedings during Tom's absence. It was noted that five people had submitted apologies but had also sent emails to support Tom's continued chairmanship. After some discussion the Committee voted nem con to support Tom's continued role.

- **Briefing Notes to Local Groups** - are ready for distribution and uploading onto the SOPA webpage. The master spreadsheet has been updated changed into a full draft report that is attached to this Note.

- **Continued Feedback from Committee on their group activity**

**Older People's Reference Group Stirling** – Eileen Wallace described plans to create a care village on the Stirling Royal Infirmary site. The development aims to transform the way services are delivered to older people by bringing a wide range of health, social care, training and GP services together in the one place.

**Make it Happen Forum Falkirk** – Kay Wood explained that 'Make It Happen Forum' is an independent group of older people in Falkirk District where monthly meetings are held in Grangemouth, Braes and Bonnybridge. Recent funding from the Big Lottery, Awards for All will enable meetings in Stenhousemuir, Falkirk and Bo'ness thereby covering the whole district. Numerous successes have emerged and good partnership working has evolved. For example, the recent closure of Tesco in Grangemouth was going to cause problems for frail older people at a nearby lunch club, so 'Make it Happen' worked with Asda, Dial-A-Journey and Falkirk Council and a solution. Asda will pay for a minibus to take users to and from the store. Asda's Community Champion will also visit the lunch club and help members use internet shopping for it to be delivered to their home.

Age Scotland and Solicitors for Older People Scotland (SOPS) have opened the Later Life Information Centre in Falkirk (first of its kind in Scotland). It provides information on a range of topics, a direct connection to Silver Line

and the arrangement of an appointment with a local solicitor, if the issue is a legal one.

'Make It Happen Forum' members wanted to continue with lifelong learning so they investigated University of Third Age (U3A) and have now set up a branch in Falkirk District. Tom Berney, as the Chair of U3A Scotland spoke at its first meeting of 100 people.

'Make it Happen' is also involved in a Moving Assistance Pilot Project with Outside the Box – a national organisation supporting groups of older people, and Falkirk Council. This is for older people who wish to move house and will provide them with Hints & Tips, Directory of Services and practical assistance. They were also asked by NHS24 to look over their new Falls Zone website and to give suggestions on terminology.

Kay concluded by saying that they are working with Alzheimers Scotland and running workshops on how to become Dementia Friends.

**Generations Working Together (GWT)** - Alison Clyde said that Scottish Government funds were reduced by 30%. Consideration is now being given to the organisation becoming a charity and development officers being sought. Alison described the production of a toolkit to deliver an intergenerational quiz which was a big success in Renfrewshire. This can be obtained from GWT website.

**A City for All Ages Advisory Group, Edinburgh** – Betty Milton explained that the Advisory Group comprised representatives from local groups of older people, Community Councils and workers from the Council, voluntary sector, academia and NHS Lothian. She referred to the difficulty many older people have in accessing Waverley Station and the work of the Transport Group to deal with this. Betty also described her personal experience of a recent hospital discharge. Donald Macleod remarked how discharge from hospitals is a big issue which is causing distress for many older people and families or carers.

### **3. Action Points from SOPA Strategy Development Meeting on 29 April 2015**

There was discussion on and agreement for the action points listed below to be implemented;

1. Glenda Watt will set up a meeting with Scottish Seniors Alliance /Scottish Pensioners Forum and Scottish Older People's Assembly to discuss areas of greater potential collaboration and demarcation of unique contribution to work more effectively for older people in Scotland and avoid duplication.
2. Glenda Watt and Tom Berney will liaise with representatives of trade union retired members' sections and the STUC to arrange a meeting to discuss building a relationship with SOPA.

3. In terms of making best use of existing structures and mechanisms, Glenda Watt is liaising with Independent Living Scotland, BEMIS and LGBT Age plus other groups of older people to explore mutual support and partnership arrangements.
4. Glenda Watt will liaise with national and local older people's organisations to explore sharing resources more effectively (e.g. research and lead campaigning)
5. Tom Berney will consider contacting business organisations like PROBUS to develop closer links/representation on the SOPA committee

Donald Macleod suggested that SOPA shouldn't only consider national older people's organisations, but organisations that have an interest in older people, e.g. Church of Scotland.

Tom and Glenda met Paul Adams, Chair of Age Scotland. This was a productive and mutually supportive meeting where it was agreed that both organisations will develop a partnership statement. Tom explained that SOPA is primarily an interface between older people and Governments while Age Scotland provides a range of services, advice and insurance, etc.

#### **4. SOPA Scottish Parliament reception 9th September 2015**

This event is sponsored by Christine Grahame MSP to build SOPA's relationship with all MSPs. More details will follow but the aim is for older people's organisations and groups to hold a stall to promote activities and concerns. All MSPs will be invited to attend.

#### **5. SOPA's Business Plan - update**

Glenda Watt said that the business plan relates to the expenditure of the Scottish Government's grant to SOPA. A Tender will be issued to procure the services of a Communications expert and a specification developed for a SOPA research employee.

#### **6. SOPA's Action Plan – update**

- **Homes Fit for the 21st Century** - the Scottish Government has a strategy on Housing for Older People to 2020: Glenda and Tom are meeting with civil servants to discuss the implementation of the strategy and its link to local authorities. Web link: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/340696/0112970.pdf>
- **Palliative and End of Life Care – National Advisory Group** – there will be a meeting on 19th May in the Scottish Government of the National Advisory Group and Glenda is invited to attend as a representative of the Palliative and End of Life Care Stakeholder Group.

**Dates of future meetings** - All meetings will take place from 11.30 – 3.30pm with a light lunch in Edinburgh to accommodate a representative from Orkney. July 9<sup>th</sup> 2015, Dean of Guild Court, City Chambers Edinburgh, September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015, November 5<sup>th</sup> 2015, January 21<sup>st</sup> 2016, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016