



## Note of Meeting

### Scottish Independent Living Coalition (SILC) - Disabled People's Organisations (DPO) and Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA)

10.30 to 13.30, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Kelvin Room, Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living, 117 – 127 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 3AP

#### Participants

Jim Elder-Woodward, Independent Chair Scottish Independent Living Convenor  
Heather Fiskien, Independent Living in Scotland  
Ross Gillingham, Disability Agenda Scotland  
Susan Grasekamp, Scottish Disability Equality Forum  
Tom Berney, Chair of SOPA and of today's meeting  
Glenda Watt, SOPA Coordinator  
Rosa Ardia, SOPA Admin Support  
David Ritchie, SOPA Research Assistant  
Alison Clyde, SOPA Committee and Generations Working Together  
Bill McDonald, SOPA Committee and Renfrewshire Seniors Forum  
Eileen Wallace, SOPA Committee and Older People's Reference Group Stirling  
Rohini Sharma Joshi, SOPA Committee and Trust Housing Association

#### 1. Welcome and purpose of meeting

Tom Berney chaired the meeting by welcoming everybody and outlining its purposes. The first is for SOPA to improve its understanding of disability, its impact on life and improve its engagement with older people who have disabilities. The second is to exchange information and explore how to build connections and opportunities for collaboration with the organisations involved today.

#### 2. Definition of disability

Jim Elder –Woodward referenced his personal experience of disability and said that there had been a significant move from the medical model to the social model of disability. Heather explained that disability is defined under the [Equality Act 2010](#) if you have a

physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities. The Equality Act 2010 doesn't apply to Northern Ireland - find out more on [NI Direct](#).

### **What does 'substantial' and 'long-term' mean**

'Substantial' is more than minor or trivial – e.g. it takes much longer than it usually would to complete a daily task like getting dressed

- 'long-term' means 12 months or more – e.g. a breathing condition that develops as a result of a lung infection

There are special rules about recurring or fluctuating conditions, for example, arthritis. For more details about the special rules download the 'Equality Act Guidance'.

[Download 'Equality Act Guidance' \(PDF, 789KB\)](#)

### **Progressive conditions**

A progressive condition is a condition that gets worse over time. People with progressive conditions can be classed as disabled.

However, you automatically meet the disability definition under the [Equality Act 2010](#) from the day you're diagnosed with HIV infection, cancer or multiple sclerosis.

### **What isn't counted as a disability**

Some conditions aren't covered by the disability definition. These include addiction to non-prescribed drugs or alcohol.

### **3. Brief overview of SOPA/SILC/DAS**

Tom Berney and Glenda provided information on Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA) which gives voice to older people about their concerns and experiences. SOPA conveys messages from the grassroots to decision makers to support or challenge policy making



so that it has a positive impact on later life. SOPA has also raised its profile amongst older people at a grassroots and a national level with its local and annual assemblies. More information can be found on its website at [www.scotopa.org.uk](http://www.scotopa.org.uk)

Heather Fiskien gave information on the organisations below;

**Scottish Independent Living Coalition (SILC)** - Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) convene to identify, prioritise and address the barriers to disabled people's independent living, human rights and equal and active participation and citizenship. It works to ensure that disabled people's voices are heard by decision makers. The Coalition is convened by Scottish Disability Equality Forum and Inclusion Scotland. The Independent Chair is Dr Jim Elder-Woodward OBE and the ILiS project is the secretariat.

**Disability Agenda Scotland (DAS)** - An alliance of disability organisations working jointly to influence and inform decision makers and policy and promoting a better understanding of the needs of decision makers. Members are: Scottish Association for Mental Health, Action on Hearing Loss, ENABLE, Sense, Royal National Institute for the Blind and Capability Scotland.

#### **4. Current themes for disabled people**

Heather Fiskien and Jim Elder-Woodwood outlined the current themes;

- Delivery of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD), and the Scottish Government and CoSLA delivery plans (draft) for it, plus the Equality 2010 Act
- Health and Social Care integration, and in particular the funding of social care
- Community empowerment, capacity building and resources for DPOs. Also procurement.

- Barriers to education, sport, political life, employment, transport, the built environment, justice and remedy, welfare, inclusive communication, accessible housing and more.

## **5. Engagement**

Susan Grasekampf gave an overview of the Scottish Disability Equality Forum (SDEF). It is a membership organisation which promotes independent living, removing barriers to inequality for those affected by disability in Scotland.

The Forum works with many organisations to influence Scottish Government policies which affect how disabled people live. This includes Access Panels across Scotland that provides advice and support to disabled people in their local communities.

Individuals and organisations can join and help to further the aims of the organisation.

Susan highlighted some consultations which have been published and may well be of interest to SOPA members. These are on a) Healthcare Facilities and b) Scottish Ambulance Service and c) Chargeable GP Phone numbers. The website links are below for sharing.

- a. <http://sdef.org.uk/index.php/consultations/337-scottish-ambulance-service>
- b. <http://sdef.org.uk/index.php/consultations/358-health-facilities-scotland-consultation>
- c. <http://sdef.org.uk/index.php/consultations/352-consultation-on-general-practitioner-telephone-numbers>

## **6. SOPA Model**

Tom Berney and Glenda Watt explained that prior to the 2014 Assembly, 12 local meetings, with over 400 representative older people participating, were held in Lerwick, Aberdeen, Inverness,

Dundee, Stirling, Kirkcaldy, Edinburgh, Penicuik, Hamilton, Glasgow, Ayr and Dumfries. This was to gather the views and concerns of older people for presentation in the Scottish Parliament on 31 October 2014.

Between January and April 2015, nine local meetings were held with over 400 representative older people participating. The meetings took place in Dalkeith, Livingston, Irvine, Orkney, Kilmarnock, Falkirk, Paisley, Turriff and Edinburgh. Other meetings will follow in East Lothian and Helensburgh. Presentations at the meetings included information about the Scottish Older People's Assembly in the Parliament on 31 October 2014 and local issues concerning older people.

Following the presentations, participants were invited to discuss the SOPA Action Plan 2015 statements to identify priorities and address two questions about improving SOPA.

Analysis of the results has identified four priorities for the 2015 SOPA Action Plan:

- 1) Affordable and accessible housing in all communities
- 2) National Care Standards
- 3) Integrated transport
- 4) SOPA extending its reach

These issues and other SOPA Action Plan items will be taken to the national assembly in the Parliament on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**7. Disability Summit** – Heather gave a short overview of the planned Annual Summit on disability. This year will be the first summit and it is still in the development stages. The Summit will take place in Edinburgh on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, International Day of Disabled People. This will be an opportunity for disabled people to speak to the Minister and to hear from the Minister. The focus of this year's Summit will be the consultation on the Scottish Government's draft Disability Delivery Plan (a consultation will begin



on 3<sup>rd</sup> September). More details will follow as they emerge and we would be delighted if SOPA would attend.

## 8. Keeping in touch.

Everyone agreed that the meeting was extremely helpful and promised to action the following points;

- Copies of the latest Scottish Disability Equality Forum Newsletter contain lots of information on the Access Panels, their work and outreach will be sent to Glenda Watt. If SOPA would like to put into our next newsletter, please send this to Morven ([morven.brooks@sdef.org.uk](mailto:morven.brooks@sdef.org.uk))
- Heather Fiskén will facilitate SOPA's attendance at a Scottish Government meeting on Accessible Housing on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015
- Heather Fiskén will facilitate SOPA's connection to Mobility Access Committee Scotland (a formal Ministerial Advisory Committee on accessible transport.
- We will link to each other's websites. [www.sdef.org.uk](http://www.sdef.org.uk)

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Glenda Watt

Co-ordinator Scottish Older People's Assembly and Heather Fiskén  
Project Manager, Independent Living in Scotland Project