

The Scottish Older People's Assembly Committee
Thursday 3rd September 2015
11.30am - 3.30pm
European Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Draft Note of Meeting

Participants

Tom Berney	Chairperson & U3A Scotland
Glenda Watt	Co-ordinator & City of Edinburgh Council
Barbara Barnes	Alzheimer Scotland
Mary Benson	West Lothian Senior Peoples Forum
Diana Findley	Age Scotland and Borders Older Peoples Service Forum
Bill Johnston	Scottish Seniors Alliance
Mike Lynch	Voluntary Action Orkney
Donald Macleod	Highland Senior Citizens Network
Bashir A Malik	Interfaith Association Edinburgh and Scotland
Bill McDonald	Renfrewshire Seniors Forum
John McAllion	Dundee Pensioners' Forum
Sandra McGregor	Make It Happen Forum, Falkirk
James Miller	Joint North Ayrshire Elderly Forum
Betty Milton	A City for All Ages Advisory Group, Edinburgh
Jeanette Pieper	Scottish Pensioners Forum
Alan Sidaway	National Pensioners Convention Scotland & Vice Chair of SOPA
Rob Snodgrass	Grey Matters
Eileen Wallace	Stirling Reference Group for Older People
John White	Dumfries and Galloway Seniors Forum

In attendance

Alasdair Hutchison	SOPA Communications, Pagoda Novelli
Rosa Ardia	SOPA Administration
David Ritchie	SOPA Research Assistant

Apologies

Val Bissland	Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Strathclyde
Rohini Sharma Joshi	Trust Housing Association
Tim Puntis	LGBT Age, Scotland
Alison Clyde	Generations Working Together

1. Welcome new members, Apologies and Opening Remarks

Tom Berney welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly John McAllion, Dundee Pensioners Forum and Rob Snodgrass, Grey Matters, Helensburgh who attended for the first time. The new members have been elected by their organisations to sit on the SOPA Committee in line with SOPA's Constitution and Business Plan. Tom referenced recent SOPA meetings with equality groups such as: Independent Living in Scotland, LGBT Age, Interfaith

Association Scotland and the black minority ethnic elders group in Glasgow. Meetings in Musselburgh, North Berwick and Helensburgh were also arranged. He said that participants had enjoyed the meetings and were supportive of SOPA. Future meetings will be in Auchinleck at the end of September and Oban on 13 November 2015.

2. Draft Note of Meeting on 9th July 2015 and Matters Arising.

The Note was approved subject to minor changes to the paragraph on page 3 re Stirling Reference Group for Older People and to the Scottish Pensioners Forum paragraph on page 5. Diana Findlay stated that Paul Adams, Chair of Age Scotland had asked Diana to represent Age Scotland on the SOPA Committee.

3. Scottish Parliament reception Wednesday 9th September 2015

This event is sponsored by Christine Grahame and will be held in the Garden Lobby from 6pm to 8pm. The Programme will include music, a welcome by Christine Grahame MSP and presentations by Alex Neil, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners Rights, Tom Berney, Chair of SOPA, and Bill McDonald, member of SOPA Committee. Organisations and forums will have a display stall. Over 200 people have registered for the event.

4. Assembly in the Scottish Parliament Monday 5th October 2015

The Assembly is sponsored by Christian Allard, MSP and will be held in the Members Room, and six Committee Rooms. Cabinet Secretary Alex Neil MSP has accepted an invitation to attend and speak about Social Justice.

Through a thorough discussion, it was agreed that Tom's speech should begin with reference to the 2014 Assembly, its actions and any follow-on activity. The workshops could demonstrate SOPA'S results, create campaign actions and demonstrate that SOPA has engaged with many older people and is conveying their views.

5. SOPA at Westminster November 2015

When Tom and Glenda met with representatives from the Pensioners Parliament in Northern Ireland, it was suggested that a joint lobbying arrangement could be considered with SOPA at Westminster on 3 and 4th November 2015. Venue costs will be shared and an equal number of SOPA and North Ireland representatives will attend. The following SOPA Committee members declared an interest in attending: Tom Berney, Glenda Watt, Betty Milton, Jimmy Miller, Sandra McGregor, Rob Snodgrass, Bill Johnstone, Diana Findlay and Jeannette Piper.

6. SOPA's Business Plan

- **Communications and media** - Alasdair Hutchinson, Pagoda Porter Novelli, explained how SOPA's media work is built on the local meetings to grow awareness of SOPA and its activities. For example, after the meeting in North Berwick both Iain Gray MSP and Douglas Johnston Smith (SNP candidate in East Lothian at Scottish Parliament election) posted on Facebook and

tweeted about the meeting. Alasdair added that they are still working on case studies, stakeholder engagement and arranging press meetings for Tom. Alasdair suggested that SOPA focus on 3 themes to maximise media coverage: Housing, Transport, Health & Social Care.

- **Research** - SOPA Research Assistant, Dr David Ritchie described his recent research on population statistics and policy developments relating to SOPA's Action Plan themes. His paper will be posted on the SOPA website.
- **Cross Party Group on Older People, Age and Ageing 9 September**
Glenda informed that SOPA now provides the secretariat for the Cross Party Group on Older People, Age and Ageing. The next meeting will be on 9th September when there will be a presentation by the Scottish Government on its arrangements for some welfare benefits and a presentation on the Older Women's Employment Report. Tom Berney will also give an update on SOPA.

Dates of future meetings - All meetings will take place from 11.30 – 3.30pm with refreshments from 11.00 and a light lunch at about 13.15.

Diamond Jubilee Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh 19th November.

January 21st 2016 – venue tbc

March 3rd 2016 – venue tbc