

**Scottish Older People's Assembly Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday 2 April 2015**  
**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
Barbara Barnes	Alzheimer Scotland
Tommy Brennan	Scottish Trades Union Council
Donald Macleod	Highland Senior Citizens Network
Diana Findley	Borders Elder Voice
Bill Johnston	Scottish Seniors Alliance
Ian Glover	Scottish Government, Equalities Unit
Mike Liddle	Scottish Government, Reshaping Care
Jimmy Miller	Joint North Ayrshire Elderly Forum
Betty Milton	A City for All Ages Advisory Group, Edinburgh
Alan Sidaway	National Pensioners Convention Scotland
Bashir Malik	Interfaith Association
Jeanette Pieper	Scottish Pensioners Forum
Rohini Sharma Joshi	Trust Housing Association
Christine Wilson	Human Development Scotland
Tim Puntis	LGBT Age, Scotland
John White	Dumfries and Galloway Seniors Forum

**In attendance**

Marjory Kenny	SOPA Communications Advisor
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**Apologies**

Alison Clyde	Generations Working Together
Val Bissland	Centre for Life Long Learning, University of Strathclyde
Helen Biggins	Seniors Together South Lanarkshire
Helen Reeves	Celebrate Age Network, Dundee
Trevor Owen	Scottish Government, Equalities Unit
Eileen Wallace	Stirling Reference Group for Older People

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

Tom welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Jimmy Miller who attended for the first time. Tom referred to the Scottish Government award of £65k to SOPA for 2015/16 and a recent discussion with Christine Graham MSP who has agreed to sponsor a SOPA reception in the Parliament on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 from 18.00 – 20.00. Details for this meeting will be worked out later and include brief speeches and stalls by local older people's groups. Tom also noted that his 2 year position as Chair of SOPA will terminate in June 2015. He is willing to stand for another two years, if the Committee are

supportive of this arrangement. Further discussion on this matter will be held at the next Committee meeting.

## **2. Draft Note of 12 February 2015 and Matters Arising**

The Draft Note was accepted and an update provided on Matters Arising;

### **Local SOPA Meetings**

Glenda Watt said that 10 meetings were planned though the one in Carnoustie was postponed due to a low turnout. It will be re arranged for June 24 2015. As SOPA promised feedback to all groups, a sample briefing note was circulated for discussion. This was agreed as the feedback format for all meetings. Additional events will be arranged specifically with people from the LGBT, ethnic and cultural communities and with older people who are frail and disabled.

### **Meeting with, Alex Neil, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Equalities and Pensioner Rights**

Tom Berney described the meeting with the Cabinet Secretary as very positive. Alex Neil has agreed to attend a future Committee meeting and dates will be passed to Ian Glover at Scottish Government. Detail of the information provided by Mr Neil and Civil Servants is contained in SOPA's Action Plan.

### **Scottish Government Consultation on a Proposed Bill Relating to Burial and Cremation and Other related Matters in Scotland**

Tom Berney urged the Committee to respond to this consultation by either sending responses to Glenda Watt by 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015 or submitting their own organisational response directly to the Scottish Parliament.

## **3. Feedback from Committee on their group activity**

**University of the Third Age (U3A) in Scotland** – Tom Berney described the U3A as the biggest growing voluntary organisation offering learning and social opportunities to older people. There are 300,000 members in the UK with forty- three U3As in towns in Scotland. Loneliness and isolation are major issues for older people's health and membership of U3A helps to overcome that. New groups have recently been established in Falkirk and Turrieff.

**Scottish Pensioners Forum (SPF)** - Jeanette Pieper said that Hustings meetings are arranged for 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015 where representatives from all political parties will attend. Issues for campaigning are the proposed tiered pension proposal, poor care in some care homes and a perceived lack of training on how to care for people with dementia.

**Scottish Seniors Alliance (SSA)** – Bill Johnston referred to bi monthly meetings of the SSA in Glasgow and monthly meetings of its Board. Scottish Government funding has continued with an award of £25k for 2015/16. He spoke of improved synergy between SOPA and SSA, and communication to

the Scottish Government on the Smith Commission's work. A reply is awaited. SSA will hold its annual conference on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

**Joint North Ayrshire Elderly Forum** - Jimmy Miller was pleased to state that the voice of older people is stronger. Local Forums meet monthly and issues of national importance are relayed to the SSA, SPF and now SOPA. He said there is growing recognition that having an umbrella organisation in the form of SOPA for the voice and experience of older people is gaining momentum.

**Dumfries and Galloway Senior Forum** – John White described a change to his Committee arrangements. Monthly meetings now alternate with social outings. He fears that improved care for older people will not be achieved through the 'integrated' arrangements as blocking of hospital beds continues, and the GP contract arrangement does not help.

**A City for All Ages Advisory Group, Edinburgh** – Betty Milton described her role as chairperson of a group dealing with transport and Waverley Station. She noted an excellent First Bus leaflet to help passengers with disabilities communicate more effectively with the driver. She also described vandalism of a bus that was to be used by school children for a special outing but this was set alight the day before its use.

**Scottish Human Development** – Christine Wilson said that her organisation dealt with training of psychotherapists and counsellors and that a small group were particularly interested in providing counselling opportunities for older people who are in or out of care services.

**Scottish Government, Equality Unit** – Ian Glover said that Scottish Government valued SOPA and its work and looked forward to working with it during 2015/16.

**Alzheimer's Scotland** – Barbara Barnes described the Dementia Friendly Programme with people who are known as dementia friends. This initiative is developing in many local authorities. Training is offered to business and lay people and a national arrangement including Dementia Advisers work with dementia suffers and carers as the post diagnostic support arrangement.

**Trust Housing Association** – Rohini Sharma Joshi outlined the housing association's work which mainly provides housing for older people and has an award winning Equality, Diversity & Inclusion programme. While embedding equality and inclusion in all areas of its work, it has also developed positive action projects in partnership. A database is held by the Lottery Funded Older People Services Development Project of ethnic minority older people in Scotland. The project has held national seminars on Dementia and Elder Abuse and will be holding a seminar on Healthy Diet and Life Style in June 2015.

**Borders Elder Voice** – Diana Findlay said that a recent road show was cancelled due to lack of support. The Board consisted of 5 people who are concerned about data on older people being sold on, vulnerable older people

being exploited and grandparents being pressurised by their children for finances or care of grandchildren.

**LGBT Age** – Tim Puntis noted that LGBT older people experienced the same issues as other older people but with the addition of possible extra health problems and greater loneliness and isolation. The service offered befriending, support and group activity in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Tim also said that it was some GPs who had recognised these problems and referred people to the centre. June 2015 will see the Gay Pride Edinburgh celebrations in Edinburgh University's Students Union.

**Scottish Government Reshaping Care** – Mike Liddle stated that some Integrated Partnership Agreements had been approved and that £300 million over three years was to be distributed. Shona Robison, MSP Cabinet Minister wanted to do her best to eliminate delayed discharge.

**SOPA Communications Adviser** – Marjory Kenny outlined her work to raise the profile of SOPA through local and social media. She said the SOPA Newsletter was a great method of communication. She had thoroughly enjoyed her work and wished SOPA well in the future. Marjory was thanked for her valuable input as her contract finished on 31 March 2015.

**Highland Senior Citizens Network** – “nothing about us without us” is our motto said Donald MacLeod. He urged groups to ensure they had a seat on the Strategic Planning Groups and the Integrated Boards. Through a recent award of £61k, two part time co-ordinators will be employed to ensure the voice of older people gets through. He spoke about the stress on carers and how negatively they can be spoken to by some professionals. He said one care home in the area had closed and another is about to be closed.

**National Pensioners Convention** - Alan Sidaway spoke about a conference in Blackpool on 16-18 June 2015 where concerns were voiced about the tired pension system. He will forward a report on this to Glenda who will pass it to the Committee.

**SOPA** – Glenda Watt revealed that she had been invited to chair an event at the Edinburgh International Science Festival. The event, called *Forever Young; can we cure ageing?* will take place in the National Museum Scotland on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

#### **4. Palliative and End of Life Care**

Tom Berney referred to his and Glenda Watt's attendance at a National Stakeholders meeting on Palliative and End of Life Care. The meeting covered the creation of the Palliative and End of Life Care Stakeholder Group, sharing experiences on what is important when living with life limiting illness and what can make a difference to improving the experiences of death, dying and bereavement. There was a chance to identify key messages for the National Advisory Group on Palliative and End of Life Care Participants and input to shaping future Stronger Voice public engagement work on palliative and end of life care.

John White outlined the following priorities that should be carefully considered and implemented for people who are dying. This replaces the Liverpool Care Plan.

- Recognised communication should be clear so decision can be made with the persons wishes and needs. This to be revised accordingly.
- Communication is important between staff and the dying persons.
- Dying persons and those important to them should be involved in decisions of treatment and care.
- The needs of families that are important to the dying person should be identified, explored, respected and met, as far as possible.
- Each dying person should have a plan of care that is co-ordinated and delivered, including food and drink, symptom control, psychological, social and spiritual agreed support.

### **5. SOPA's Action Plan**

Glenda Watt provided an update on the Actions agreed in the Parliament on 31 October. Some of the items were discussed with Alex Neil, MSP at a meeting with him on 26 February 2015 when he or a civil servant provided further relevant information to progress our actions. Meetings will be arranged with other Ministers to raise concerns voiced by older people too. Details of the Action Plan are at Appendix 1 to this Note.

### **6. SOPA's Business Plan**

Glenda Watt provided an outline of SOPA's Business Plan which is based on SOPA's vision and the successful application for funds to the Scottish Government. The work programme covers the Committee's developmental and delivery actions, including regular Committee meetings, the annual Assembly and meetings with Ministers, MSPs and Civil Servants.

**AOCB** Jimmy Miller said that he thought that committee members should be able to support Tom and Glenda at public meetings. Tom explained that there was already a standing invitation to committee members to take part when a meeting was held in their area.

### **Dates of future meetings**

**Some venues are to be confirmed and all meetings will take place from 11.30 – 3.30pm with a light lunch.**

May 7<sup>th</sup> 2015, Glasgow City Chambers, George Square, July 9<sup>th</sup> 2015, Dean of Guild Court, City Chambers Edinburgh, September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015, Glasgow, November 5<sup>th</sup> 2015, Edinburgh, January 21<sup>st</sup> 2016, Glasgow, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016, Edinburgh