

SOPA Committee Meeting
Thursday 3 March 2016 11.30 – 15.30
European Room, City Chambers, Edinburgh

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
Mary Benson	West Lothian Senior Peoples Forum
Diana Findlay	Age Scotland and Borders Older People's Service Forum
Mike Lynch	Orkney Voices
Donald Macleod	Highland Senior Citizens Network
Bill McDonald	Renfrewshire Seniors Forum
Tim Puntis	LGBT Age, Scotland
Alan Sidaway	National Pensioners Convention Scotland & Vice Chair of SOPA
Alan Spinks	National Federation of Occupational Pensioners
Rob Snodgrass	Grey Matters
Eileen Wallace	Stirling Reference Group for Older People
John White	Dumfries and Galloway Over 50's Group
Christine Wilson	Scottish Human Development

In attendance

Catherine Hewit	Scottish Government, Equality Unit
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Apologies

Alison Clyde	Generations Working Together
Mike Liddle	Scottish Government
Sandra McGregor	Make It Happen Forum, Falkirk
Rohini Sharma Joshi	Trust Housing Association
Bashir A Malik	Interfaith Association Edinburgh and Scotland
Betty Milton	A City for All Ages Advisory Group Edinburgh
James Miller	Joint North Ayrshire Elderly Forum
John McAllion	Dundee Pensioners' Forum

1. Welcome and Apologies

Tom welcomed members to the meeting and invited introductions. He noted resignations from Jeannette Piper and Helen Biggins and thanked them for their valuable contributions to SOPA. Val Bissland stated that if acceptable to the committee, she would stand down and recommend that John Parkhill represent the Learning in Later Life Students' Association, University of Strathclyde. Val declared her wish to continue to support the SOPA website and Newsletter. No one objected to this suggestion.

2. Draft Notes of the meetings on 21 January 2016, 18 February 2016 and Matters Arising

The Note of the Meeting on 21 January was accepted. With reference to the draft note of 18 February, Val Bissland requested that this should reflect Donald MacLeod's helpful mediating interventions, and Alan Spinks asked that his name be added to the attendance list.

3. Chairman's Report

Tom said the last meeting had been difficult for all participants. He thanked everyone for their support and attendance today and encouraged everyone to work together for the benefit of older people in Scotland.

4. Co-ordinators Report

SOPA's contribution to national policy

Glenda reported on SOPA's contribution to national policy and its implementation stating that a number of committee members had attended various meetings as listed below. She also said that SOPA was having a growing influence and it was pleasing to note that the Government had produced a leaflet on *Arranging a Funeral?*

- Scottish Government's Older People's Development Group
- Palliative Care and End of Life Framework
- Scottish Parliament's Enquiry into Age and Isolation
- National Care Standards Review - Consultation Report February 2016
- Designing Places for an Ageing Population - Jimmy Miller
- Care of Older People and People with Dementia in Hospitals
- Carers Coalition
- Funeral poverty review and implementation
- Accessible travel in Scotland
- Devolved Welfare Benefits for Scotland
- Holyrood conference on Telehealth Care – 31 March 2015 - short film featuring grandson talking about his grandmother's use of Telecare
- Holyrood conference on Funeral Poverty April 21 2016 – Tom Berney is a speaker
- Drink Wise – Age well – seminar - December 2015. Assistance is required on website development.
- National Housing Strategy for Older People
- My Home life - leadership training programme for residential care managers based on appreciative enquiry and relationships
- Fairer Scotland Conversation
- Healthier Scotland Conversation - launch of documentation on 17 March
- Independent Living Scotland/ Ministerial Action Group on housing for people with disabilities
- Administration of Cross Party Group Older People, Age and Ageing

- Commissioner on Older People for Wales is arranging a summit to which Tom Berney is invited to participate.

Catherine Hewit added that in relation to tackling Age and Isolation, the Scottish Government is providing £300k to Meal Makers and £50k to Age Scotland for distribution of funds to small groups of older people to alleviate loneliness. Catherine also mentioned that the British Irish Council is planning an event later in 2016 and that SOPA will be included as a model of good practice.

Towards SOPA becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)

Glenda recapped on the activities that the Committee had agreed to on the future hosting arrangements for SOPA:

- Although consideration had been given to existing older people's organisations undertaking SOPA's role and local authorities taking on the same function as the City of Edinburgh Council, this was not pursued due to the changing landscape of public service function and delivery.
- COSLA could offer SOPA support but currently there is no space.
- The University of Edinburgh, Public Participation Network does not have the facility to support SOPA
- University of Strathclyde, Centre for Lifelong Learning is very keen to work in partnership with SOPA.
- Melting Pot, Rose Street Edinburgh generally has office accommodation and support @ £4,176 per annum but there is no space
- Age Scotland can offer a desk, IT hardware and support, reception support, office facilities @ £6,437 per annum. Finance and HR support could be included for a small extra cost. The committee appreciated but declined this offer.
- SCVO, Hayweight House, Edinburgh can offer a desk, computer, telephone, meeting rooms in Edinburgh and Glasgow @ £3,360 per annum plus a charge for finance and HR support.
- Financial expertise over the transition and beyond as been sought and will be confirmed by the end of March 2016.

5. Draft Constitutions

Prior to the meeting a number of committee members had given comments on the draft constitutions and in line with the recommendation from SCVO, the committee agreed to focus discussion on the draft two tier constitution rather than the one tier constitution.

Each comment was considered and a vote taken on whether or not to accept or reject it. It was finally agreed to submit the updated constitution together with the OSCR application form. In addition, Tom asked the committee to vote on whether or not to support his continued term of office and whether or not Glenda should continue in her role as SOPA coordinator. The vote was unanimously in favour of

Tom and Glenda continuing in their respective roles until the first AGM of SOPA. In the meantime, SOPA will operate under its present constitution.

Val Bissland suggested that committee members should declare an interest in becoming a SOPA Trustee. In response Alan Sidaway, Donald MacLeod, Diana Findlay, John White, Rob Snodgrass, Eileen Wallace, Alan Spinks and Bill McDonald indicated their interest.

6. Preparation for 2016/17 Activities

SOPA's Campaigning Actions

During discussion it was suggested that the wording of some campaign actions should be amended to clarify meaning and that Committee members with their groups consider which actions to adopt. Amended wording of campaign actions are below;

1. Reduce funeral poverty through funded developments and promotion of social enterprise funeral arrangements.
2. Raise awareness of the negative impact of major changes to the State Pension.
3. Raise awareness for the need of funded programmes to promote active citizenship for older people
4. Improve participation of older people through funded use of communication technology.
5. Seek to have older representatives on all Joint Integrated Boards
6. Raise awareness that care workers should be respected, well paid and trained to the highest standard
7. Raise the importance of improved quality of life for older people cared for in a home and 'at home' through links to the community.
8. Psychological and therapeutic services for people over 65 should be funded on a par with 'adult' services.

2016 Assembly

Although some committee members preferred to use the Edinburgh International Conference Centre for ease of access and space, others suggested the Assembly should be held in the Parliament to ensure a good connection to the politicians. Glenda will enquire about the use of the Parliament and the Edinburgh International conference centre following the Scottish elections.

In terms of the purpose of the 2016 Assembly, the following suggestions were noted but no conclusions were agreed;

- Local groups could present on 2016 activities. For example, Highland Senior Citizens Network has received £10k to explore how to support older people to give their experience and views, how do older people communicate their views constructively so that policy makers and service providers listen and what can Boards/ Committees/ services do to hear and receive the voice of older people.
- Rob Snodgrass said that Grey Matters would like to pursue 'active citizenship'
- Mike Lynch said that Orkney Voices are keen to work on representation on the Joint Integrated Board

SOPA Reception

Glenda will explore the possibility of SOPA holding another reception at Westminster and the Scottish Parliament.

SOPA's Business Plan 2016/17

A funding application covering the future business arrangements of SOPA to 30 June 2016 was submitted to the Scottish Government and another will be sent to the Voluntary Action Fund for funding from 1 July 2016 to 30th June 2017.

Local meetings

Glenda and/ or Tom would be delighted to meet with the Committee's local groups to discuss the campaign actions or anything else. Please contact Glenda to arrange a meeting.

Regular feedback from Committee

Tom suggested that at future committee meetings one or two members could give a brief presentation on their local group activities in order to broaden our awareness of activities across Scotland. In response, Alan Spinks agreed to present the work of his organisation at the next meeting in May.

AOCB

John White complimented Glenda on the contribution she had made to developing SOPA. He noted that her employment with the Council was about to end and suggested that it would be appropriate for the SOPA Committee to recommend her for an MBE. The committee agreed. Tom said he would look into the procedure for honours recommendations.

7. Date of the Next Meeting

Wednesday 25 May 2016 from 11.30 – 15.30 at Hayweight House, 23 Lauriston Street Edinburgh.