

The Scottish Older People's Assembly is a 'voice' for older people.

January 2019

***Welcome to SOPA's Newsletter.
Feel free to pass it on to others.***

Foreword

This newsletter will report events in which we have been involved in the past few months and also some significant personnel changes in the SOPA Planning Group. It is written at a time when the future has never been less clear, but we can be sure that the challenge of achieving respect and equality for older people will remain. Just last week we have seen supposedly reputable journalists suggesting that older people should not be allowed to vote in referendums as they will not have to live with the outcome! And that a car crash by one eminent old person should be a justification from banning the rest of us from driving! Shockingly discriminatory attitudes which would not be tolerated for any other group of citizens

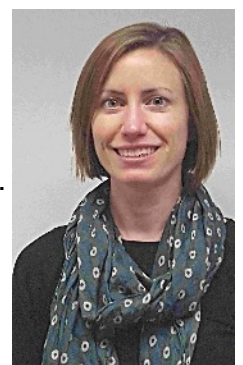
Thank You to Glenda



Glenda Watt, who has been the Co-ordinator and mainstay of the Scottish Older People's Assembly almost since its inception has decided to stand down from her role this year. She will be remembered not only for the good humoured way in which she held our organisation together, but also for the prodigious amount of work she produced in steering us through the many organisational changes we have had to introduce over the last several years, new constitutions, bank accounts, changes of premises, staff changes etc, not to mention the main role of promoting and protecting the interests of the older people of Scotland... She will be greatly missed and we wish her well in her future activities.

Welcome to Caroline

We are very pleased to welcome Caroline Clark to replace Glenda. Caroline has worked in a number of roles in local government, including seven years in the planning and commissioning of health and social care services for older people, and has recently worked on projects involving older people in the voluntary sector. She is passionate about ensuring the views of older people are used to develop services and policies, and believes that everyone should have access to the support they need to live happy and healthy lives. Her experience will be a valuable asset to SOPA.



Farewell to Tom and Welcome Diana



Tom Berney is leaving the Planning Group after five years in the chair and is replaced by **Diana Findley** who is an Age Friendly Champion from the Borders. **Alan Sidaway** of the Unite Retired Members association is continuing as Vice

Chair.

Fuel Poverty

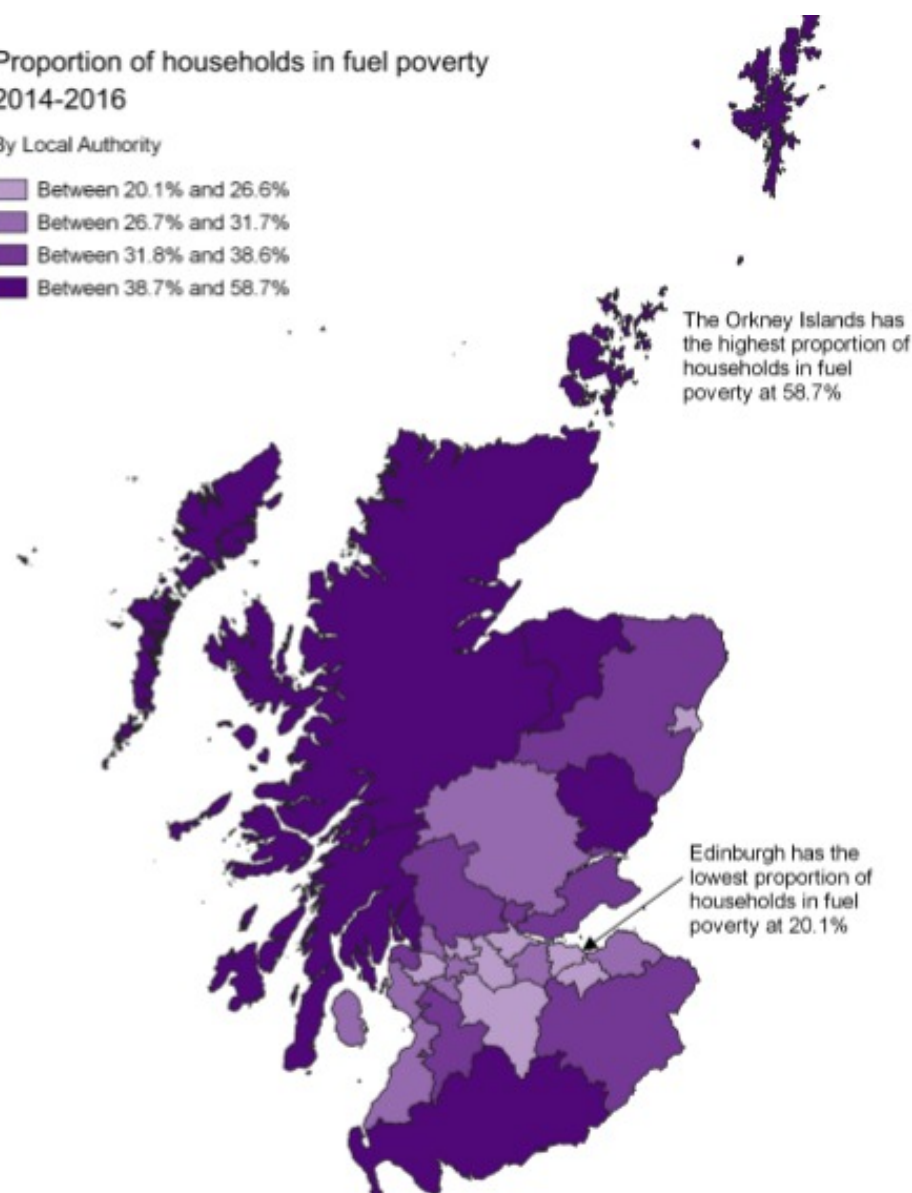
Caroline Clark, Christine Wilson and Tom Berney met the Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Communities Committee to discuss their scrutiny of the draft Fuel Poverty (Target, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Bill. SOPA later submitted written comments on the Bill which is aimed at eradicating fuel poverty by improving the fuel efficiency of Scottish housing. We welcomed the objectives of the bill, as the unaffordable cost of heating is regularly raised by older people. However, against a background of hundreds of thousands of Scots living in fuel poverty and 35% of winter deaths being from cold and damp related lung conditions like flu and pneumonia we expressed our doubts that simply improving fuel efficiency would be an adequate solution.

75% of all deaths in the winter months are people aged over 75 and that 35% of deaths are due to environmental related lung conditions like flu and pneumonia.

Proportion of households in fuel poverty
2014-2016

By Local Authority

- Between 20.1% and 26.6%
- Between 26.7% and 31.7%
- Between 31.8% and 38.6%
- Between 38.7% and 58.7%



Older People's Framework - Have Your Say

The Scottish Government are developing a new Older People's Framework in 2019 and the SOPA has been asked to help gather views to feed into the process.

Please complete the online questionnaire and circulate to your networks of older people and older people's organisations. **The deadline for survey completion is 30 January 2019**

<https://surveyhero.com/c/SOPA2019>

SOPA EVENT - 4th February 2019

We will also be holding an engagement event entitled **"Identity, Connection and Choice"** on Monday 4th February 2019, 10am - 3.30pm at COSLA Conference Centre, Haymarket, EH12 5BH. If you are interested please register on the Eventbrite website and we will confirm availability shortly

[/www.eventbrite.com/e/scottish-older-peoples-assembly-identity-connection-and-choice-conference-2019-tickets-53948366015](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/scottish-older-peoples-assembly-identity-connection-and-choice-conference-2019-tickets-53948366015)

Forthcoming Events

5th March 2019	Reception in Scottish Parliament
June 2019	Partnership with Unforgotten Forces
4th October 2019	Scottish Older People Assembly in the Scottish Parliament

New Premises

SOPA

Eric Liddle Centre,
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Edinburgh EH10 4DP
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The Scottish Older People's Assembly is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation number - SC046520.