

**Scottish Older People's Assembly Committee
Draft Strategy Meeting Notes
Tuesday 11 April 2017
11.30am - 15.30pm**

**SCVO, Hayweight House – 3rd Floor
23 Lauriston Street Edinburgh EH3 9DQ**

Participants

Tom Berney - U3A Scotland / Chair SOPA
Donald Bulloch - Seniors Together, South Lanarkshire
Matt Hamilton - Retired Police Officers Association Scotland (RPOAS)
Bashir Malik - Interfaith Association Edinburgh and Scotland
Sandra McGregor - Make It Happen Forum, Falkirk
Jimmy Miller, GMB Retired Members
Betty Milton - A City for All Ages Advisory Group, Edinburgh
Archie Noone – Alzheimer's Scotland, Scottish Dementia Working Group
John Parkhill - Learning in Later Life Students' Association, University of Strathclyde
Alan Sidaway - National Pensioners Convention Scotland
Rob Snodgrass - Grey Matters
Alan Spinks - National Federation of Occupational Pensioners (NFOP)
Eileen Wallace - Older People's Reference Group Stirling

In Attendance

Avril Crossley - SOPA Administration and Finance Worker
Ruth Bishop – Transport Scotland
Andy Stevenson – Transport Scotland
Glenda Watt - SOPA Co-ordinator

Apologies

Mary Benson - West Lothian Senior Peoples Forum
Katherine Burrows - LGBT Age, LGBT Health & Wellbeing
Alison Clyde – Generations Working Together
Diana Findlay - Borders Older People's Services Forum Regional Ambassador & Age Scotland
Ian Galloway – Scottish Council on Deafness
Mike Lynch - Orkney Voices
Bill McDonald - Renfrewshire Seniors Forum
Donald McLeod - Highland Senior Citizens Network
Rohini Joshi Sharma - Trust Housing Association (Equality Scotland)
Nicky Stones - LGBT Age, LGBT Health & Wellbeing
John White - Dumfries & Galloway over 50's Group, and Public Partnership Forum in Dumfries
Christine Wilson - Human Development Scotland

1. Welcome and Apologies

Tom welcomed new SOPA Committee members - Jimmy Miller, Archie Noone, and Matt Hamilton, plus Ruth Bishop and Andy Stevenson from Transport Scotland.

2. Transport Scotland

Ruth and Andy want to discuss and hear views on possible changes to the National Concessionary Travel Scheme, including the provision of travel

Scottish Older People's Assembly Committee
Draft Strategy Meeting Notes
Tuesday 11 April 2017
11.30am - 15.30pm

SCVO, Hayweight House – 3rd Floor
23 Lauriston Street Edinburgh EH3 9DQ

concessions to Modern Apprentices and young Job Grant recipients, prior to the consultation to be held on the scheme later this year.

A lively discussion followed and included the following views:

- Money can be saved, if citizens are encouraged to be active and get out and about. This also minimises loneliness and isolation and supports the government's 'preventative agenda'
- Reimbursement of 56% of the single fare is made to the bus companies which is more expensive than the return fare
- It was stated that for every £1 spent, £2.80 is put into the economy
- Concessionary travel is not available on night buses
- People who cannot use public transport can apply for a taxi card for a limited number of subsidised journeys but people who are disabled do not have the same opportunity as other older people
- Some people over 60 are employed but require the concessionary arrangement to support them in work
- Some buses are not accessible to people with disabilities or who have limited mobility
- Bus routes are at the behest of the bus companies and not the needs of the older / disabled population
- Some families who rely on public transport have difficulty visiting people in hospital or care, especially if they are rural or island dwellers
- Conflicts arise re use of spaces for buggies and wheelchairs on the bus
- Poor driver behaviour on some bus routes makes it difficult for some people to use the bus.
- Some drivers do not log the correct destination for some passengers
- In some countries and areas in Scotland and England passengers are journeyed from door to door
- A companion / carer can accompany older/ disabled person free. Some people require confidence to use the bus due to a physical or psychological condition
- Public transport usage must be encouraged to reduce the carbon footprint, especially in the cities.
- Issues should be coordinated at the Scottish Government Cabinet level to ensure Jeanne Freeman MSP involvement, as she is coordinating issues relating to older people

Everyone agreed that the Concessionary Travel arrangement is of vital importance to older and disabled people and that it should not be reduced or restricted for new users.

Ruth Bishop and Andy Stevenson left the meeting

3. Invitation to meet Transport Minister on 25 April 2017

Three SOPA reps are invited to a meeting with Humza Yousef MSP Minister for Transport and the Islands on Tuesday 25th April, 2.30-3.30pm, Scottish Parliament. Jimmy Miller, Rob Snodgrass and Betty Milton expressed their

Scottish Older People's Assembly Committee
Draft Strategy Meeting Notes
Tuesday 11 April 2017
11.30am - 15.30pm

SCVO, Hayweight House – 3rd Floor
23 Lauriston Street Edinburgh EH3 9DQ

interest. Rob Snodgrass, Tom Berney and Glenda Watt will attend as Jimmy Miller and Betty Milton withdrew their names.

4. Strategy Meeting

Glenda Watt referred to a background paper that reflected our application for charitable status, Scottish Government funding and establishing an office base with SCVO in Edinburgh during March 2016. She said that while much had been achieved there were lessons to be learned to improve our work in the future.

Committee members formed three groups to discuss their views and provide feedback.

Group 1 - SOPA as a SCIO and its role on governance, trustees, policies, finance, membership and our first AGM

Issues raised

- Suggest we have SOPA badges but this will require sponsorship
- Happy with conduct of SOPA
- Increase membership and its involvement in our activities
- Must seek more resources - look at London, Active Wales, Northern Ireland, Pensioners Parliament and their sponsorship arrangements for specific activities.
- Affiliation fee – not sure about this as it could be a disincentive and a conflict of interest
- Local meetings - include more committee members and identify a specific role for them
- Terms of reference/governance – regular check that we are working to the Constitution
- Capacity – OSCR what does this mean??
- Provide SOPA finance spreadsheet with notes
- Hold AGM in the Summer according to our Constitution

Group 2 – SOPA's local meetings, Assembly, receptions, conferences, Cross Party Group, website, liaison with other similar groups - SYP, NI Pensioners Parliament and Active Wales, newsletter and media articles

Issues raised

- Everyone seems very happy with the delivery of our events
- Intergenerational activity is important but difficulty undertaking it in some areas due to a fear of meeting young people. Seek support from Alison Clyde
- Westminster and Holyrood receptions – few MPs and MSPs – need to think of ways to include them in all activities – Westminster – extend invitations to House of Lords and English- based organisations
- Assembly – some participants requested information stalls and discussions in committee rooms

Scottish Older People's Assembly Committee
Draft Strategy Meeting Notes
Tuesday 11 April 2017
11.30am - 15.30pm

SCVO, Hayweight House – 3rd Floor
23 Lauriston Street Edinburgh EH3 9DQ

- SOPA website – this is appreciated and our hits are steadily increasing though some committee members are not looking at it, referring their members to it or making contributions to social media
- Newsletter – this is liked – we will continue to profile new members and post local activity
- Must continue to include people who are non-English speaking, with hearing, sight and mobility impairment at our meetings
- Continue to build our relationship with the Youth Parliament and for local groups to do the same with local SY Members

Group 3 - Activities until 30 June 2017 – Aberdeen, Dundee, Scottish Parliament event with Trading Standards on 6th June 2017, and Cross Party Group on 26 April 2017

Issues raised

- Develop strategic perspective - committee members could form a sub group and report to main committee though there are cost implications. Revisit this at July strategy meeting
- Aberdeen meeting arose through Glenda Watt having an opportune meeting with Grampian Regional Equality Council manager
- Dundee local meeting – host, interest in dementia
- Matt, Archie and Donald have members that can attend the Aberdeen and Dundee meetings, contact via email once agreed
- Cross party group Older People Age and Ageing
- 6th June – Trading Standards Scotland to lead as SOPA has had its quota of Scottish Parliament meetings.

LUNCH

Betty Milton left the meeting

5. SOPA Moving Forward 1st July 2017-2020 SOPA's VAF application - principles, finance and targets

Glenda Watt referred to SOPA's application for £70,000 to promote cohesion, tackle discrimination and facilitate older people's voices being heard. We may receive a response on this by 17th May committee meeting. While Rob Snodgrass queried SOPA's focus on older people who have protected characteristics, Glenda Watt explained that as we receive funding from the Scottish Government Equality Unit this has to be the focus of our work. There will be further discussion on our work, if we receive funding at our next strategy meeting in July 2017.

Jimmy Miller left the meeting

- Big Lottery Awards for All – £10k conditional offer to SOPA for PA equipment and older people to undertake research.

**Scottish Older People's Assembly Committee
Draft Strategy Meeting Notes
Tuesday 11 April 2017
11.30am - 15.30pm**

**SCVO, Hayweight House – 3rd Floor
23 Lauriston Street Edinburgh EH3 9DQ**

- Applications for other funding as Scottish Government funding does not cover everything. We must explore funding opportunities and match the work we do to them.
- Faith in Older People – Glenda is invited to speak at this meeting about SOPA. We have an invitation for those with live church connection
- John Parkhill - Scottish Government Individual Learning (ILA) account is closing 30/9/17, not told what changes are happening. John to find out for next meeting.
- John Parkhill – Strathclyde University launched The Age Friendly Academy, on 2nd May 1-4pm, which brings together research groups in the University targeting issues of ageing and celebrates the learning programme for older adults in the Centre for Lifelong Learning.