



Scottish Older People's Assembly
Scottish Charity Number SCIO 46520

Trustees Report

For the Year ended 30 June 2018

Trustees Annual Report

For the year ended 30 June 2018

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with a financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2018.

Reference and Administrative Information

Scottish Older People's Assembly SCIO

Charity No 46520

Address

14 Ashley Place, Edinburgh EH3 9DQ

Current Trustees

Tom Berney Chair - U3A Scotland

Diana Findlay Treasurer- Age Scotland and Scottish Borders Seniors Networking Forum – renamed to Borders Older People's Forum

Betty Milton - City for All Ages, Edinburgh

Bill McDonald - Renfrewshire Seniors Forums

Rob Snodgrass Vice Chair – Grey Matters, Helensburgh - resigned February 2018

Alan Sidaway - Unite Retired Members Association Dumfries and Galloway

Eileen Wallace - Older People's Reference Group Stirling

John White – Dumfries and Galloway Seniors Forum

Other Members contributing to the Board

Mary Benson - West Lothian Senior People's Forum

Donald Bulloch - Seniors Together, South Lanarkshire

Alison Clyde- Generations Working Together

Ian Galloway - Scottish Council on Deafness and North Lanarkshire Deaf Club

Bashir Malik - Interfaith Association Scotland and Edinburgh

Sandra McGregor – Make it Happen Falkirk

Jimmy Miller – GMB Retired Members

Anne Munro, Pilmeny Development Project

Maureen O'Neill - Faith in Older People

Allister McKinley - Edinburgh Association of Community Council's

Archie Noone - Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Working Group

Matt Hamilton & Jim McBrierty – Retired Police Officers Association Scotland

John Parkhill - Learning in Later Life Students' Association, University of Strathclyde

John Thomson - LGBT Age

Alan Spinks - National Federation of Occupational Pensioners (NFOP)

Rohini Sharma Joshi - Trust Housing Association (Equality Scotland)

Christine Wilson - Human Development Scotland

Sandra Wilson – RNIB

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 29 April 2016. The Scottish Older People's Assembly was delivered by the City of Edinburgh Council from 2011 until March 31, 2016 and changed its form to become a SCIO on 29 April 2016. The trustees are its members and together with other members form the Board.

Appointment of trustees

The Board, which normally meets every two months are the charity trustees and full members. Membership of the Board is open to representatives of organisations involved in any aspect of promoting the voice and experience of older people which carries voting rights. Associate membership is open to other bodies (whether public sector or private sector) and to individuals which gives the right to attend members' meetings, but without voting rights.

Trustees were elected during the formation of the SCIO in April 2016. There must be a minimum of eight and a maximum of 18 trustees.

Membership applications

During the year we have granted eight new applications for membership.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purpose

SOPA will advance human rights and the interests of older people, the equality and diversity of older people and of citizenship and community development for older people in Scotland. SOPA will influence legislation, policies and services applying to older people and organise a national assembly of older people per annum.

Activities

As part of the Scottish Government's programme to promote equality and cohesion, the Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA) was awarded £20k during 2017/18. This was a significant reduction from Scottish Government funding during 2016/17. The award is to deliver effective engagement with older people to enable them to have direct communication with and influence decision makers to ensure older people are better informed, empowered, and able to contribute as part of civic society. Additionally, the Scottish Government requested that the Scottish Older People's Assembly, during its national event, would contribute to and celebrate 2018 as the Year of Young People.

To begin the planning towards a national assembly and parliamentary reception, SOPA engaged with older people to co-design what shape the events should take. The partnership supported a Planning Group of 25 older people from various organisations across Scotland to lead the process of engagement with their peers and stakeholders. This process would enable them to make informed recommendations for a vision for the 2017/18 Assembly and Parliamentary Reception.

Scottish Government officials and Ministers attended some of these meetings, listening to older people to hear what their hopes and aspirations are for the events. Engagement through meetings has also been complemented by engagement of older people and stakeholders through digital channels.

The commitment of the Scottish Government to collaborate with older people is part of the Ministers' wider ambition to ensure "A thriving third age" and " Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older, and access support when they need it"

Achievements and Performance

Our achievements include the collaborative work of the Planning Group, delivery of the Scottish Older People's Assembly on 23 April 2018, commissioning SOPA researchers by utilising our Award from The Big Lottery, delivering a Parliamentary Reception on 6th June 2018, local meetings in Dundee, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dingwall and Nairn and two workshops at Stirling University with Soroptimists International.

In July 2017 the Planning Group held its first meeting of this funding period. We came from a variety of areas in Scotland representing 25 organisations working with older people covering all protected characteristics. Our youngest members are in their late fifties and early sixties while the oldest are in their mid to late eighties.

During the same Planning Group, we participated in an interactive discussion with Lord Bracadale to contribute to his Review on Hate Crime. We appraised our last Assembly and Parliamentary Reception with the intention of instituting change, if necessary. We brainstormed how we might arrange the Assembly and Parliamentary Reception agreeing that we would like to use the Scottish Parliament again. We took into account our resources and the size of the events but decided we could not plan the detail of these until the venues had been secured. However, it was clear from the previous Assembly evaluations that older people: -

- enjoyed meeting politicians
- using the Scottish Parliament
- participating in interactive discussion
- being informed of Scottish Government developments concerning older people
- hearing opinions and activities of other older people from different parts of Scotland, and
- receiving evidence that their contributions had advanced policy and service developments.

It was important to make sure that we thought about how to involve older people with disabilities, such as sight, hearing and mobility impairments and engage with people with dementia and from the LGBTI and ethnic communities.

As a group we met to plan our contribution to unexpected event opportunities prior to and following the Assembly. Each event was different, and we enjoyed the variety of roles of participant, facilitator, presenter and host. We: -

- contributed to the newly established Scottish Government's Older People's Strategic Action Forum on 29 November 2018 and 6th June 2018
- presented at the Holyrood Conference on Loneliness and Isolation on 13 February 2018
- delivered a Civic Reception and presentation at Dundee City Chambers in partnership with Alzheimer Scotland's Dementia Working Group on 8th March 2018, and
- facilitated two workshops at the Soroptomists International Conference on 14 April 2018
- have worked with Poppy Scotland on its collaborative 15 strong partnership to support its work with Unforgotten Forces
- commissioned researchers to support SOPA annual assembly, Parliamentary Reception and events listed below
- co-hosted a Scottish Parliamentary Reception with Christine Grahame MSP on 6th June 2018 to exchange experiences and information on older people as consumers. Partner contributions were provided by Lucy Manson of Citizens Advice Scotland, Sheila Scobie, Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) and SOPA members.
- worked in partnership with Scottish Youth Parliament, Glasgow City Council and the Citizen's Income Trust to hold a seminar on 22 June on the proposed about Citizen's Basic Income pilot schemes
- partnered with Trading Standards Scotland to host an event at COSLA on Consumer Engagement event on 18 June about scams, care home contracts and home efficiency measures
- worked with Highland Senior Citizens Network to deliver consultation meetings with older people in Dingwall and Nairn on 28 June, and
- delivered two presentations at a Holyrood conference on 28th June about the importance of physical activity in later life.

During the events prior to the Assembly we presented information on SOPA's campaign actions and gathered participants views. These were on personal and local experiences of concerns, services and opportunities for presentation during the Assembly. All participants were informed of the national assembly and invited to register their interest in attending. In total, 140 older people attended these events and approximately 60 stakeholders, also took part.

In of our continued planning for the Assembly, we were delighted to be granted use of the Scottish Parliament's Members Room, including Committee Rooms for themed interactive workshops.

Clare Adamson MSP chaired the Assembly, Jeane Freeman OBE MSP Minister for Social Security and Tom Berney Chair of SOPA provided key note speeches and SOPA members chaired each interactive workshop. To facilitate discussion, current information was presented by officials from the Scottish Government, NHS Scotland, Citizens Advice Scotland, Trading Standards and SOPA on topics identified by older people as matters of concern. There were;

- sustainability of adult social care
- preventative interventions to deal with falls and safer communities

- funeral poverty, and
- Beveridge's Giant Evils 'want', 'disease', 'ignorance', 'squalor', and 'idleness'
Where are we now?

To celebrate the Year of Young People and to hear their views, in conjunction with the views of older people, we worked with the Children's Parliament and Scottish Youth Parliament to deliver a first of its kind interactive session on human rights. The Assembly then concluded with an MSP Question Time.

Around 500 people participated in the above events, including younger people, older people and stakeholders.

Financial review

The Scottish Government Equality Unit has provided our main source of funding. However, we have received sponsorship funding to support the Assembly and local meetings from Police Mutual Trust, apetito, B&Q and National Federation of Occupational Pensions.

Reserves policy

Our policies are to ensure proper accounting records are kept in accordance with all applicable statutory requirements. As the trustees are mindful to retain three months' worth of normal running costs to meet commitments and to cover any unexpected expenditure they will work to achieve this during the forthcoming year.

Plans

The trustees and members intend to continue to develop the charity and its activities by advancing a fund-raising strategy and seeking new Trustees and members.

Thanks

Sincere thanks and appreciation are extended to Glenda Watt, Avril Crossley, and all volunteers, partner organisations and sponsors who have contributed to SOPA's development and activities.

Tom Berney



Scottish Older People's Assembly Chair 26 July 2018