

SOPA Committee Meeting

Friday 20th January 2017 – 11.30am - 15.30pm

Sacred Heart Church, Lauriston Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9DQ

Note of Meeting

Participants

Tom Berney	SOPA Trustee, Chairperson & U3A Scotland
Donald Bulloch	Seniors Together, South Lanarkshire
Katherine Burrows	LGBT Age, LGBT Health & Wellbeing
Diana Findlay	SOPA Trustee & Age Scotland & Borders Seniors' Networking Forum
Rohini Sharma Joshi	Trust Housing Association
Mike Lynch	Orkney Voices
Donald Macleod	SOPA Trustee & Highland Senior Citizens Network
Bashir A Malik	Interfaith Association Edinburgh and Scotland
Alan Sidaway	SOPA Trustee & National Pensioners Convention Scotland & Vice Chair of SOPA
Rob Snodgrass	SOPA Trustee & Grey Matters
Nicky Stones	LGBT Age, LGBT Health & Wellbeing
Christine Wilson	Scottish Human Development

In attendance

Glenda Watt	SOPA Co-ordinator
Avril Crossley	SOPA Administrator
John Thompson	LGBT Age, LGBT Health & Wellbeing

Apologies

Mary Benson	West Lothian Senior Peoples Forum
Alison Clyde	Generations Working Together
Bill McDonald	SOPA Trustee & Renfrewshire Seniors Forum
Sandra McGregor	Make It Happen Forum, Falkirk
Betty Milton	SOPA Trustee & A City for All Ages Advisory Group Edinburgh
Alan Spinks	National Federation of Occupational Pensioners (NFOP)
Eileen Wallace	SOPA Trustee & Stirling Reference Group for Older People
John White	SOPA Trustee & Dumfries and Galloway Over 50's Group
Kay Wood	Make It Happen Forum, Falkirk (stand-in for S McGregor)
John Parkhill	Learning in Later Life Students' Association, University of Strathclyde

1. Welcome and Apologies

Tom welcomed everyone to the meeting, including new members Katherine Burrows, Nicky Stones and Donald Bulloch.

2. Declaration of Interests

Tom requested 'Declarations of interest' but none were offered.

3. Chair's Remarks

Tom thanked members for their contribution to the Assembly. He provided an update on his attendance at meetings dealing with the new Social Security arrangements and the Scottish Youth Parliament who have invited SOPA to attend a Sitting of the Youth Parliament in March. Glenda Watt also provided an update on her activities, including:- participation in a House of Lords Reception on Mobility, Mood and Place – a research project exploring how places can be designed

collaboratively to make pedestrian mobility easy, enjoyable and meaningful into oldest age. Promotional material used at the reception included photographs of Betty Milton and Joan Turner (previous vice chair of SOPA) which are now on the SOPA website. Glenda also referenced the draft Standards on Health and Social Care and requested comments for submission by SOPA. The following were offered:

- no one disagreed with the principles or philosophy of the draft standards but there was concern over assessment of need and wishes, possible conflict with the principle of personalisation and overall implementation, particularly regarding rural areas, lack of resources and difficulty meeting the travel needs of carers/ visitors
- Rob Snodgrass referred to a highly praised care facility in his area run by volunteers and a qualified manager. He said there was too much emphasis on obtaining qualifications while Christine Wilson disagreed with this point of view, stating that qualifications add value to the staff's ability to deliver a service and gain more pay.

4. Draft Note of Meeting on 20 October 2016 and Matters Arising

Senior Railcard

Rob Snodgrass argued for the one year Senior Railcard to be paid for in full by SOPA and used by members who request it to benefit SOPA. This would also ensure that Committee members are not out of pocket.

As Avril Crossley and Glenda Watt had verified Rob's calculations that the payment of the one year Senior Railcard would benefit SOPA, it was agreed that committee members will act in good faith, in their request for payment to cover purchase of the Senior Railcard.

Alan Sidaway approved and Diana Findlay seconded the adoption of the Notes of the meeting on 20 October 2016.

5. Membership of SOPA

Barbara Barnes of Alzheimer Scotland has tendered her resignation, due to other commitments. Barbara was thanked for her support of SOPA and sent good wishes for her future. Glenda will approach the CEO of the same organisation to identify another representative.

Completed individual membership forms for Matt Hamilton and Jim McBrierty of the Retired Police Officers Association Scotland were approved. A request from the GMB Union for James Miller to be its representative on the SOPA Committee was also approved.

6. Palliative Care Research Application by University of Edinburgh

With reference to Professor Scott Murray's presentation on proposed palliative care research during SOPA's Committee meeting on 20th July 2016, Glenda Watt advised that the bid for funding had been unsuccessful but funding was being sought from other sources.

7. Holyrood Event 22 03 17 – Tackling Loneliness and Isolation in Later Life: Improved Health and Well-being - Panel contribution by SOPA

Glenda Watt reported on an event arranged by Holyrood Magazine to highlight 'Tackling Isolation and Loneliness in Later Life' and that SOPA is invited to contribute to a panel discussion. Four committee members volunteered to participate – Katherine Burrows, Christine Wilson, Rob Snodgrass and Tom Berney. In addition, five free places are available to SOPA members.

<https://www.holyrood.com/event/tackling-loneliness-and-isolation-later-life-improving-health-and-well-being>

8. Draft Report to VAF on SOPA's Activities to 30 June 2017

As SOPA is accountable to VAF for its outcomes, targets, indicators, health check and polices, Glenda Watt outlined the contents of SOPA's six monthly Report to VAF. This is on SOPA activities and achievements which will be updated and submitted to VAF following today's meeting. VAF also requested a report on the 2016 Assembly which is being drafted.

Committee members said they had enjoyed the Assembly and the opportunity to speak in the Debating Chamber. It was noted that the Minister had been complimentary towards SOPA and sent a letter of congratulations to Glenda Watt. Katherine Burrows would have valued fewer speakers, with longer time for those speaking.

Feedback from Committee Assembly speakers

- It was fine, relaxing, welcoming, and easy to do, their voice carried out to those in the chamber and brought people in.
- It was easy, no effort at all, audience remarkably welcoming and paying attention to the presentations. Great to see the range of activities.
- Comment from one delegate that she was so pleased to see SOPA had grown, and people were standing up for themselves which had brought a tear to her eye.
- Three of the speakers had spoken before, not too daunting, quite happy, didn't mind it.

Future Activities

In terms of SOPA's activities, Donald MacLeod suggested that these should only be progressed, if funding is available beyond June 2017. The draft paper outlining future activities was accepted, including a suggestion to invite Mukami McCrum, Kenyan Women in Scotland Association to join the SOPA Committee.

9. Response to Commission on Parliamentary Reform – deadline 15 02 17

Glenda stated that the Commission on Parliamentary Reform wants to hear what you think about how the Scottish Parliament is working and, if you think it could do better, about what improvements should be made. The Commission was set up to look at how the Scottish Parliament engages with the people of Scotland; the identity of the Scottish Parliament, as distinct from the Scottish Government; and whether the right 'checks and balances' are in place to ensure effective parliamentary business. Glenda suggested that she would draft a response for comment and submission.

10. SOPA's Financial Position

Glenda presented the end of quarter financial statement which has a small underspend. The statement was submitted to VAF.

Glenda advised that she, Avril Crossley and Diana Findlay met with Caroline Sanderson to discuss her experience and excellent qualifications to be an independent financial examiner for SOPA, at a cost of £300 per annum. The appointment was agreed by the Committee.

Glenda also advised that although the Co-Operative Bank had accepted SOPA's application to open a bank account, there was concern about its paper work, as on two occasions it contained the wrong name and address of SOPA. There was agreement to consider an alternative banking arrangement.

11. Westminster Reception Monday 6 March 2017

The Reception to be hosted by Mhairi Black MP will be held in the Thames Pavilion from 16.00 to 18.00. The following SOPA Committee members volunteered to attend - Tom Berney, Alan Sidaway, Nicky Stones, Rob Snodgrass, Diana Findlay, Donald Bulloch and Glenda Watt.

Rob Snodgrass reported that Grey Matters had a visit from Ruth Davidson where he mentioned there was no conservative MP who attended the last Westminster reception.

Glenda Watt and Avril Crossley will check accommodation and travel arrangements.

12. Scottish Parliament Reception Wednesday 29 March 2017

This will be an evening reception hosted by Christine Graham MSP. Katherine Burrows is a police advisor who referenced the possibility of including Police Scotland. Mike Lynch said that Orkney had a scam awareness month and that SOPA could consider combing these ideas in tandem with Trading Standards.

Tom suggested contacting the ceilidh band and having stalls to promote the activities of older people's groups. The Committee agreed the suggestions for action.

13. AOCB

Scottish Council on Deafness

Glenda reported that an initial meeting to discuss the possibility of a representative from Scottish Council on Deaf Action attending the Committee was postponed due to bad weather. A gentleman appeared today for the committee meeting, but as his attendance was not expected and there was no sign language interpreters booked, he will be invited to attend the next meeting after Glenda and Tom have met with him to discuss his communication needs.

Age Scotland – Conference 29th March 2017 in Perth. SOPA has 2 spaces. GW will attend.

Trust Housing Association

Before leaving the meeting at 13.00, Rohini announced that her organisation has secured lottery funding of £337k for a 3 year older persons' research project to look at the changing needs of the black minority ethnic community. Rohini hoped that SOPA would contribute to the research.

Cross Party Group Older People, Age and Ageing

The next meeting will be held on 25 January 2017. The one following it will be a joint arrangement with the Cross Party Group on Mental Health on Wednesday 26 April 2017 at 17.30.

14. Dates of future meetings

Both to be held at Hayweight House, Edinburgh on **Wednesday 01 March 2017** and **Wednesday 17 May 2017** from 11.30 to 15.30. Refreshments from 11.00

Minutes agreed: 1 March 2017

Proposed by: Donald Bulloch

Seconded by: Rob Snodgrass

Chair: Tom Berney

