

SOPA Committee Meeting
Wednesday 01 March 2017 – 11.30am - 15.30pm
Hayweight House, Lauriston Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9DQ

Note of Meeting

Tom Berney	SOPA Trustee, Chairperson & U3A Scotland
Mary Benson	West Lothian Senior Peoples Forum
Donald Bulloch	Seniors Together, South Lanarkshire
Diana Findlay	SOPA Trustee & Age Scotland & Borders Seniors' Networking Forum
Ian Galloway	Scottish Council on Deafness
Mike Lynch	Orkney Voices
Bill McDonald	SOPA Trustee & Renfrewshire Seniors Forum
Sandra McGregor	Make It Happen Forum, Falkirk
John Parkhill	Learning in Later Life Students' Association, University of Strathclyde
Alan Sidaway	SOPA Trustee & National Pensioners Convention Scotland & Vice Chair of SOPA
Rob Snodgrass	SOPA Trustee & Grey Matters
Alan Spinks	National Federation of Occupational Pensioners
Nicky Stones	LGBT Age, LGBT Health & Wellbeing
John White	SOPA Trustee & Dumfries and Galloway Over 50's Group
Eileen Wallace	SOPA Trustee & Stirling Reference Group for Older People
Christine Wilson	Scottish Human Development
In attendance	
Avril Crossley	SOPA Administrator
Glenda Watt	SOPA Co-ordinator
Kirsty/Keiran/Wendy	BSL Interpreters
Apologies	
Alison Clyde	Generations Working Together
Katherine Burrows	LGBT Age, LGBT Health & Wellbeing
Rohini Sharma Joshi	Trust Housing Association
Bashir A Malik	Interfaith Association Edinburgh and Scotland
Jimmy Miller	GMB Union Retired Members
Betty Milton	SOPA Trustee & A City for All Ages Advisory Group Edinburgh
Donald Macleod	SOPA Trustee & Highland Senior Citizens Network

1. Welcome

Tom welcomed everyone to the meeting, including a new member, Ian Galloway who is representing the Scottish Council on Deafness, and his interpreters. Introductions were made and an apology from Nicky who left the meeting after lunch.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

3. Chair's Remarks

No remarks from the Chair. Glenda's request to bring forward Item 5a on the Agenda was approved.

4. Draft Note of Meeting on 20 January 2017 and Matters Arising

Amendments to note of meeting were that John Parkhill was not present, and the correct name is Scottish Council on Deafness. Minutes were approved by Donald Bulloch and Rob Snodgrass.

Matters Arising

SOPA's Banking Arrangements

Glenda Watt said that although a previous decision by the Committee was to use the Cooperative Bank, a significant number of errors in their paperwork to SOPA and recent public news that the bank is to be sold, indicated that it would be a risk for SOPA to proceed with the Cooperative Bank. Prior to today's meeting Glenda had sought advice from Tom Berney, John Parkhill, Rob Snodgrass and Diana Findlay about this concern and the use of other banks. As RBS has no charges under £100K, and an account can be established in a short time via a phone call, Alan Sidaway and Eileen Wallace advised that SOPA should not use the Cooperative Bank but apply to the RBS. All Committee members agreed.

Westminster Reception Monday 6 March 2017

As Rob Snodgrass withdrew from attending the reception due to a diary error, John Parkhill will attend instead. Other attendees are Tom Berney, Glenda Watt, Alan Sidaway, Diana Findlay, Donald Bulloch, Bill McDonald, John Parkhill and Alan Spinks.

John Davies Chair and Baroness Gale, President of Active Wales will also participate in the reception. NI Pensioner Parliament send apologies but will forward a supportive message that can be referenced during the speeches.

Although Glenda Watt outlined the reasons for the reception and SOPA's meeting with Mhairi Black in April 2016 when she agreed to host it, and this item had been discussed at most Committee meetings since, John White said that the reception was costly and not worthwhile.

Scottish Parliament Reception Wednesday 29 March 2017 6-8pm

Tom outlined the content of the event to include, exhibition stalls, speeches, and ceilidh music. Glenda will issue detailed information, including the invitations near the event.

Age Scotland Conference 29 March 2017, Perth

As many committee members said they are already attending, and the event is the same day as the SOPA reception, it was agreed that Glenda will represent SOPA and leave early to be at our reception in the Parliament.

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

Tom Berney, Christine Wilson, Rob Snodgrass and Katherine Burrows volunteered to be on the Panel. Betty Milton, Nicky Stones, Bill McDonald and Ian Galloway will attend as delegates.

Honour

Betty Milton, Eileen Wallace and Diana Findlay are to submit information to Tom Berney.

Response to Commission on Parliamentary Reform

As time did not allow for a draft response to be submitted to the Committee for comment, the final response was read out by Tom and everyone approved. A copy of our response is attached.

5. Scottish Parliament Event 6 June 2017, 18.00-20.00: Older People Being Safe

While the Retired Police Association has facilitated a possible event in the Parliament to be hosted by Alex Cole Hamilton MSP who requested that SOPA organise it, it is not possible for us to undertake this in the Parliament as we are restricted to two events there in a 12 month period.

Glenda has approached Trading Standards Scotland to lead on the delivery of the event with SOPA. The Committee like this arrangement and requested that Glenda continues to pursue it.

5a Planning session – what do we do over next 3 years

Glenda tabled information outlining SOPA's work since 2012 and the criteria for the Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund for 2017-2020. She noted that 3 year funding is available and asked the Committee for their views on the application. The tabled paper will be sent to everyone.

Discussion followed on the importance of preventative work, visiting more groups around Scotland, continuing to talk to people, and learn about particular issues such as deafness and sight impairment, and to involve more committee members at these meetings.

Ian Galloway who is the manager of Lanarkshire Deaf Club is inviting SOPA to contribute to a meeting in Motherwell from 1-5pm on 25th March 2017. As Tom and Glenda will be attending the Scottish Youth Parliament on the same day, John Parkhill and Donald Bulloch will attend.

6. Membership and Committee requests

Retired Police Officers Association: as requested, it was agreed that Matt Hamilton will attend Committee meetings and Jim McBrierty will be his substitute.

7. Feedback from meeting with Jeane Freeman MSP Minister for Social Security on 22 February 2017 at the Scottish Parliament

Age Scotland, SPF, SSA, Soroptomists International, Citizens Advice Dundee and Out of the Box attended the morning meeting along with SOPA.

The Minister welcomed everyone and outlined her wish to receive information on issues of concern. She also stated her plan to develop a strategy for older people in Scotland and would welcome everyone's suggestions for it by Easter. She said the strategy would ensure links between Government departments for a joined up approach. Glenda will draft a submission.

During the afternoon, Tom and Glenda attended a meeting at St Andrews House to receive information about the results of the consultation on the proposed social security arrangements for Scotland. Expert Panels, including people with

experience of social security benefits are to be established. Information on the results of the consultation are on the Scottish Government website.

8. Training in Understanding Parliamentary Systems and processes – 7th April 11.00-1.00pm and 5th May 1.30-3.30pm (must be able to attend both sessions)

Two representatives from Action in Mind who spoke at our 2016 Assembly held a reception in the Scottish Parliament on 26/01/17 profiling the voice and experience of older people with mental health problems. There is now an opportunity for SOPA members to attend a training session at the Scottish Parliament as above. Glenda will forward the information to everyone to contact Angela Dias for a place.

9. SOPA Strategy Meeting

It was agreed that the Strategy meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th April, 11.30-3.30 3rd Floor SCVO. Papers will follow.

10. Approval of Assembly Report

The Committee approved the 2016 Assembly Report and congratulated Glenda and Avril on the work.

11. SOPA's Financial position

Diana Findlay, Treasurer presented financial information which included a set of notes to explain our expenditure since December 2016. We have a small under spend. Glenda explained that our Financial Examiner, Caroline Sanderson has begun to scrutinise our expenditure and records and will report on a quarterly basis. A Big Lottery Awards for All application to appoint researchers and PA equipment has been submitted. This does not include original research but gathering policy and existing research. The Committee appreciated the Excel and Note information and requested this for future meetings.

12. SOPA Newsletter and Website

As Val Bissland is on holiday from 24 March, the Newsletter will be ready for distribution by 24/3/17. Contents will include a new member profile, Westminster reception and any items from committee members – Grey Matters award.

13. AOCB

Requests for SOPA's involvement have been received from Barbara Kimble as below:

Scottish arm of a new UK-wide quality improvement programme entitled 'Building on the Best'. This project is funded by Macmillan UK and delivered locally by the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care. 'Building on the Best' looks to improve the experiences of people with deteriorating health (of any condition) and their families in the acute hospital setting. In Scotland, we will be working with three hospitals in different health board areas to identify and then test relevant improvement activities, with a particular focus on improving shared decision-making. We are planning to have significant public and patient/carer input and involvement in this project and were wondering if we might be able to draw on SOPA's expertise to assist us with the development of this aspect of our work.

John White would like to invite Barbara to his group in Dumfries.

Scottish Government Transport would like to meet with SOPA to discuss Concessionary Travel.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Ian Galloway said that assessments for this benefit did not include awareness of deafness and that nearly every person who was assessed failed to receive the benefit. This was a very difficult outcome for people to deal with that.

14. Dates of future meetings

Strategy meeting on Tuesday 11 April 2017 11.00 15.30 – Hayweight House
Committee Meeting on Wednesday 17 May 2017, 11.30-15.30pm