

Scottish Older People's Assembly
Planning Group Meeting Tuesday 22 January 2019
10.30-12.30pm
Robertson Suite, Eric Liddell Centre
15 Morningside Road, Edinburgh EH10 4DP

Note of Meeting

Present

Diana Findley – SOPA Chair, Borders Older People's Forum and Age Scotland
Alan Sidaway – Dumfries RMA
Kath Payne – U3A in Scotland
Sam Gibson - Lanarkshire Unite RMA
Betty Milton - A City for All Ages Advisory Group, Edinburgh
John White - Dumfries & Galloway over 50's Group
Matt Hamilton – Retired Police Officers Association
Jim McBrierty – Retired Police Officers Association
Alison Clyde – Generations Working Together
Graham Reece – Clackmannanshire Older Peoples Forum
Sandra McGregor – U3A Falkirk
Eileen Wallace – Public Partnership Stirling Forum

Apologies

Alan Spinks
Allister McKillop
Christine Wilson
Donald Bulloch
Jimmy Miller
Jo Cowan
Sandra Wilson

In Attendance

Avril Crossley - SOPA
Caroline Clark - SOPA

1) Welcome

Chair welcomed all new members

2) Declaration of conflict of interest

None

3) Draft Notes

- P3 item c) reworded to “a national campaign (UK) on the state pension...” and name corrected to Neil *Duncan*-Jordan.
- Pg 4 item l) not all libraries are not distributing hearing aid batteries, there are some local initiatives
- SOPA leaflet – membership list to be updated Dumfries & Galloway over 50s (instead of Seniors Forum), add Dumfries RMA

Matt Hamilton and John White approved the minutes with amendments as above

4) Matters Arising

- Updated leaflet – circulated again around committee members present. Aim to update the leaflet but acknowledged lack of capacity with a part-time Co-ordinator, no web or communications support. **Alison offered to assist with leaflet. Caroline to draft an advert for website support – Kath offered to circulate to U3A.**
- Discussion around minutes, and length of them, we will try to keep to the point but cover key issues for those that are unable to attend.
- Discussion around non-attendance, **Chair to contact absent members with a friendly reminder** re attendance – it's important to give apologies so that we don't waste money on catering. Some members have not attended for a considerable time and maybe substitutes could attend instead.
- Query re when next Older People's Strategic Action Forum meeting - 20 February.
- Oral Health - Jim McBrierty gave an update – a 2 hour conference call was disappointing as still little action. The team (Manchester University) will review what they have put out already and circulate. High level fluoride toothpaste is now considered a drug and needs further ethical approval. It was noted that poverty areas are more vulnerable to cancers of the mouth and the advice to see a dentist only once a year affects this group adversely.

- SOPA Staffing - Caroline – 1.5 days and Avril even less, Diana suggested that the committee needs to do more until more funding can be sourced. Subgroups for certain tasks to be formed eg website review, leaflet redesign.
- Query re Social Care for Older People Future's Forum event – update was given at last meeting, no conclusion, hosted by minister, discussion groups, need big decisions on funding but that did not come out of the meeting. (Report now available at <http://www.scotlandfutureforum.org/scotland-2030-a-sustainable-future-for-social-care-for-older-people/>)

5) Chairs Report

Noted.

6) Consultation – Identity, Connection and Choice: Looking to the Future

Event planned for the 4th February, following successful bid for £5,000 from OPSAF to do some engagement work to feed into the Older People's Framework. Running one event and questionnaire sent out. Topics are barriers faced by older people, how the contribution of older people is valued.

Funding received in November and work to be written up and submitted by end of February, Rebecca has been funded to do some of the work, 280 responses to the questionnaire received so far.

The closing date for the questionnaires is the 30th January, then analyse and write a report by 28 February 2019.

Event on 4th February was discussed. A room was originally booked for 56 people, but sign up has been slow. One or two members noted that they would attend but the group agreed that a smaller room should be booked. Short timescales and weather at this time of year were noted as likely features contributing to low numbers.

The response to the questionnaire has been very positive, with 280 responses to date. Comments were made on the well laid out questionnaire and its simplicity. The group reflected that a smaller turnout for the event along with a strong response for the questionnaires is overall a positive outcome and it will have been a worthwhile exercise for SOPA to have been involved in.

7) Planning for Assembly and Reception

7a) Reception - Tuesday 5 March 2019 18.00 - 20.00

Date booked, sponsored by Christine Graham MSP, Christina McKelvie MSP also due to speak, topics from 4th February can be highlighted.

A small number of stands will be available:

- Shared area for those not wanting to take full stand to display leaflets and information
- Alison – GWT Table
- Eileen – Table
- Graham – to approach Age Scotland – want to take a table?

Other issues were discussed:

- A Connected Scotland – strategy launched, 4 priorities, including intergenerational dialogue and housing
- Stigmatising of older people – underlies all these issues, bed blocking, TV licences, mainstream media jump on it all the time, volunteering, caring for grandchildren

Caroline and Diana are meeting with the Parliamentary Events Team on Monday to progress further.

Once invitations circulated, **all members to contact local MSPs to encourage to attend.**

7b) Assembly – Friday 4 Oct 2019

Process is set by parliament, report needs to be drafted with topics for discussion and submitted in April/May for consideration by the Scottish Parliament, with confirmation in June whether we are able to use the Debating Chamber.

Date is positive as week of the older person, SOPA 10 year anniversary and 20 years of the Scottish Parliament.

8) SOPA Planning Group – new and leaving members

- Jimmy Miller – changing organisations – now representing as older peoples champion for North Ayrshire Council - **approved**. Will hear from GMB re replacement. Related action - **Caroline to write to all Councils and ask if they wish to be represented through their older peoples champion** (if they have one).

- Edinburgh Association Community Council – Patricia Easton replacing Allister McKillop - **application approved (change in representative)**
- The Food Train – Michelle Carruthers CEO – many of the group were aware of the work of the Food Train and welcomed their application to be a SOPA member – **application approved (full membership)**
- Dr Pat Williams MBE – Individual – retired GP, mental health, with special interest in Alzheimers. Leads Edinburgh U3A Astronomy Group (50 members) - **application approved (associate membership)**

The process around replacing representatives of existing members was discussed as the current process created lengthy delays where member organisations were not represented at SOPA meetings and events.

It was agreed that where an existing member organisation puts forward a new representative, **this will be circulated by email for approval rather than waiting for the next meeting for agreement.**

All new membership applications will continue to be brought to the next scheduled meeting for approval.

9) AOCB

Meeting venues and out-reach events

Discussion around location of planning meetings being held elsewhere and agreed that they should be held alternately in Glasgow and Edinburgh as the easiest locations for people from across Scotland to travel to.

The desire for SOPA to extend its networking and engagement to more remote areas was agreed. **Jimmy Miller had offered to provide a venue for a future meeting – this will be taken up and a local event organised for later in the year.**

Options for venues in Glasgow were suggested - John Lewis – free rooms for charities, Unite Union, west Regent street, John Smith House.

Funding

Glenda and Sandra have offered to draft some funding applications. Potential sources might include: The Robertson Trust, WG Edwards Charitable Foundation, Kells Trust, Allen Lane Foundation and Henry Smith Charity, along with a resubmission of the previous Big Lottery application. **This was discussed and welcomed by the group.**

Meeting format

It was agreed that for future meetings one or two members would be invited to talk about the current work of the organisation that they represent, sharing challenges and how they are being addressed that everyone can learn from and contribute their own experiences.

Consultations

- [TV Licence for over 75s](#), closes 12th February
- [Consultation on Scottish Charity Law](#), closes 1st April
- [Equally Safe - a consultation on legislation to improve forensic medical services for victims of rape and sexual assault](#) closes 8th May
- [Report on the responses to Funeral Costs](#) now available

Caroline noted that SOPA are asked to respond to a high volume of consultations which she does not have the capacity to respond to. Information will be circulated to members who can make individual responses. **Diana suggested that members might form sub groups to develop joint responses on issues felt to be a priority.**

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 22nd May 2019, 11am

Venue: Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Strathclyde, Graham Hills Building, 40 George Street, Glasgow G1 1QE