

**Scottish Older People's Assembly
Draft Minutes of the Planning Group Meeting
Held on Wednesday 22 May 2019 13.00 - 15.00**

Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Strathclyde

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Introductions all round, new members present Cllr Jim McMahon – Older People’s Champion, East Ayrshire Council, Cllr Elaine Thornton- Nicol, Older People’s Champion, Scottish Borders Council

Members present

Diana Findlay SOPA Chair, Borders Seniors Networking Forum, Regional Ambassador for Age Scotland

Samuel Gibson, Lanarkshire Unite Retired Members Association

Betty Milton A City for All Ages Advisory Group, Edinburgh

Eileen Wallace Public Partnership Stirling Forum

John White Dumfries & Galloway over 50’s Group and Public Partnership Forum in Dumfries

Sandra McGregor – U3A Falkirk

Cllr Jimmy Miller - Older People's Champion, North Ayrshire Council

Patricia Eason - Edinburgh Association of Community Councils

Cllr Jim McMahon – Older People’s Champion, East Ayrshire Council

Cllr Elaine Thornton- Nicol, Older People’s Champion, Scottish Borders Council

Also present, Diane Campbell, President Live Long Learning, University of Strathclyde

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None given

3. Draft Notes of Meeting on 22 January 2019 (attached)

Sam Gibson proposed and Eileen Wallace seconded, notes approved.

It was noted that Donald Bulloch has resigned from SOPA

Pg 2 John – you can also get free batteries for hearing aids from medical practices

4. Matters Arising from the Draft Notes

a. Website and newsletter – verbal update

Working group met on 16/04/19, led by a volunteer in web design with time to give. Caroline will continue working with him to make changes to the website.

b. Identity, Connection and Choice – verbal update

Event held on 04/02/19, following 480 responses, summarised [report available on SOPA website](#), fed into framework for older people developed by the Scottish Government.

Eileen fed back on the SOPA event held at COSLA, Haymarket, positive feedback and thanks to Caroline.

c. Older People’s Framework – verbal update

[“A Fairer Scotland for Older People; A Framework for Action”](#) was published at the end of March, now available on the Scottish Government’s website.

d. SOPA Reception – 5 March, feedback

Jimmy suggested that Age Scotland are supportive of establishing a network of Older People’s Champions, Diana is in touch with the Lead Policy Officer, Adam Strachan.

e. Older People’s Champions – letters to Local Authorities, update

The update report was discussed. Elaine suggested that herself, Jim and Jimmy could divide Scotland up geographically and chase up responses with Councils. It was noted that Council’s would be expected to cover expenses of Older People’s Champions, Diana suggested we would go back to the Minister with results.

f. Outreach meetings - verbal update

13/06/19 - Unforgotten Forces event in Bathgate to be held with SOPA

Midlothian Older People’s Assembly (MOPA) meeting – Diana in touch with regarding membership of SOPA and attendance at a future meeting of MOPA.

g. Funding - verbal update

Application will be submitted to the Lottery around improved communication, website and newsletter and outreach once funding for 2019-20 has been agreed with the Scottish Government

2020 - Case for more funding to be developed for the new grant round for Scottish Government monies.

5. Chair's Report and feedback from meetings attended by members

Diana provided an overview of her report already circulated to members.

A reporting form has been developed for members to complete to feed back on events attended on behalf of SOPA – **Caroline to circulate via email, please fill in if attending meetings and events on behalf of SOPA.**

A second sheet was circulated for ascertaining how many people each planning group member is representing in Scotland, along with specific interests and expertise of members. **All members to please fill in and return to Caroline by end of June.**

Eileen – Holland (Bertzog) - They work as a team, whole care of the client, lifted from Holland, Health & Social Care Partnership, new concept adapted in Stirling (Balfron). Neighbourhood Bonded – keep people in their home longer – Pilot for 6 months – ends August 2019. **Slides to be attached to minutes.**

6. SOPA - new and leaving members

List circulated – All agreed

Local Champions to be automatically able to attend meetings as already approved by Council representing.

7. Featured member organisations:

Diane Campbell – Strathclyde University – President Life Long Learning, **slides of presentation attached.**

8. Planning for the Assembly – discussion groups

Paper circulated and two separate groups looked at options for the Assembly.

9. Feedback, summary and next steps

Due to time constrictions, feedback was not given. Caroline will use notes from the groups to develop a draft programme for the Assembly. Parliament need to confirm SOPA's use of the Debating Chamber and side rooms for Saturday 5th October 2019 – decision due 27/06/19. Following this decision, we can publicise the date, book speakers, workshops and start taking bookings.

10.Key dates, forthcoming meetings and events

As circulate – including 31st May 2019 – Caroline and Diana to meet with Mary (Poverty & Inequality Mission) in the afternoon, also meeting with Alisia – Age Discrimination Law, from Melbourne University in the morning.

11.AOCB

Jimmy has been chosen within his trade union work as the representative to go to Cuba in 2020.

Jim – Enjoyed first meeting, gave an overview of work in East Ayrshire. Notes successful tea dances held fortnightly, with over 130 attendees.

Lingo/Flamingo - People Living with Dementia, teaches languages

12.Date of Next Meeting (and AGM)

Wednesday 7 August 2019, Eric Liddell Centre, 15 Morningside Road, Edinburgh EH10 4DP