

# OLDER PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC ACTION FORUM (OPSAF) MEETING

6 June 2018

## Meeting Note

### ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

#### Attendees:

Action on Elder Abuse - Lesley Carcary  
Age Scotland – Adam Stachura and Ashleigh de Verteuil  
Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau – Tracy McNally (depute for Mary Kinninmonth)  
Faith in Older People - Maureen O'Neill  
Generations Working Together – Alison Clyde  
LGBT Health and Wellbeing – Maruska Greenwood  
Outside the Box - Anne Connor  
Scottish Older People's Assembly - Glenda Watt, Tom Berney  
Scottish Pensioner's Forum – Rose Jackson & Eileen Cawley  
Scottish Seniors' Alliance - Bill Johnston, Dorothy Murray  
Soroptimists International - Mariane Sapcote

#### Apologies:

Suzanne Munday, MECOPP,  
George Kay, GWT

- The Minister welcomed a new member to OPSAF - Lesley, Carcary, Director of Action on Elder Abuse.
- The Minister advised OPSAF that she had met with Cabinet Secretary for Health, Ms Shona Robison on Social Care on 7 June. Their conversation would continue and Ms Robison was aware of a number of issues in Adult Health & Social Care.
- Scottish Seniors Alliance (SSA) noted highlighted that the OPSAF distribution list emails were visible to all recipients and was contrary to new GDPR. This was noted.

### ITEM 2 – PREVIOUS MINUTES AND ACTIONS

- November's minutes were agreed.
- The Minister reviewed the previous actions.

<b>ACTION NUMBER</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Nov1	The Minister will write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport to obtain information on engagement of older people on the joint boards and circulate that to the group	<b>COMPLETE</b> 16/05/18 Annex to letter of 16/05 contained

		response from Cabinet Secretary Health
Nov2	The alignment of this group with others hosted by Scottish Government was discussed, in particular the Older People's Development Group, with the latter focussing specifically on health and social care. The Minister emphasised that she saw this group as being an overarching one, which enabled her to take forward her role as the Scottish Government Minister with overall responsibility for older people. It was agreed that this strategic role would be reflected in the group title	<b>COMPLETE</b> 16/05/18 Minister advised in her letter of 16/05 that the group name has been amended to OPSAF.
Nov3	It was agreed that a meeting of the group with the Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, to discuss the impact of Brexit on older people, would be arranged	ONGOING – meeting time to be identified.
Nov4	Age Scotland highlighted an amendment to the EU (Withdrawal) Bill being supported by them and other third sector organisations and it was agreed that this would be circulated to the group.	<b>COMPLETE</b> 30/05/2018
Nov5	It was agreed that the title and initial context of the paper should reflect the remit of the group and its overall focus on action to ensure a positive aging experience, with dignity and respect	<b>COMPLETE</b> 29/11/18

### ITEM 3 – DEVELOPING THE OLDER PEOPLE'S FRAMEWORK – MAPPING OF SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT WORK

- Sean Stronach (SS) advised that since the November meeting, officials have had discussions across several policy areas to understand what work is underway across Government that affects older people. A mapping exercise of all relevant policy areas has been undertaken. A significant amount of work is going on and includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. Transport
  - b. Adult health and Social care
  - c. Housing
  - d. Social Isolation & Loneliness
  - e. Funeral Poverty
  - f. Carers
  - g. Volunteering
  - h. Community safety
  - i. Workplace equality & the older workforce

- j. Population demographics – noting that the British Irish Council did work on the ageing population across the UK (published 2017) and lead by the Scottish Government. The Advisory Council is now looking at the findings and ongoing policy development and SG is monitoring.
- OPSAF members have already raised a number of specific issues in addition to the above list. SS asked OPSAF how national policy development was impacting at a local level and what were the gaps in policy development that stakeholders saw?
- Minister asked attendees what was missing and how much of this list of policy work they were aware, noting that attendees were largely aware. Missing areas noted by OPSAF were:
  - dementia and palliative care
  - [Snap Action Plan](#).
  - Could the Domestic Abuse bill be strengthened to cover older people.

**ACTION JUN1: The Minister agreed to discuss the extension of the Domestic Abuse Act to include older people, with the Justice Secretary Michael Matheson.**

- OPSAF members also commented that:
  - Hate Crime Report by Lord Bracadale – Specific recommendations on older people and vulnerability being a specific aggravating factor in terms of hate crime – it was noted that the SG is considering this.
  - Housing policy should have specific strand on priority for vulnerable older people and vulnerable adult care groups.
  - As Scotland has the lowest life expectancy in western Europe, more doctors should be made available to poorer areas.
  - SG should lead on an older workers strategy (those working beyond 65 in particular)
- The Minister suggested that OPSAF could help to raise relevant issues to the Minister for Housing, Kevin Stewart – e.g. homes suitable across different stages of life. The social policy approach should look at positive ageing.
- Brief discussion on housing infrastructure:
  - older people often forced into care due to inadequate housing availability
  - Glasgow School of Art students building design courses gets students to think about designing space for all age groups
  - People in 40s and 50s should be asked what they want when they age in the future
  - “Mood Place Mobilty” – Manchester project involves young architects working with older people
  - Planning Bill was an opportunity to highlight intergenerational projects, or introduce targets for suitable housing
  - Good intergenerational housing project in Poland which addresses more issues than care homes - no funding available here. Orkney was interested in a pilot but were too small.

- The Minister explained that her portfolio has a very active part in looking at test projects. In terms of resources for adult care could potentially make funding available for test projects in Scotland in conjunction with Cabinet Secretary for Health.

**ACTION JUN2: The Minister advised that Jamie Dougall and Lesley Fraser would be made aware of OPSAF's interest in their work, noting a strategic approach was necessary for this work.**

- The Minister spoke about the need to challenge government and the media around negative perceptions of older people and celebrate ageing as a fact of life and that it is positive. Comments made:
  - Auchinleck Care Home open their day lounge to the public to help break down barriers.
  - Could OPSAF publish a document – What it's like to get older in Scotland? – to push back on negative stereotypes – this could include a timeline and might help to spot gaps in policy development
  - The Adult Support and Protection Act (Maureen Watt) was introduced ten years and must now be evaluated.

**ACTION JUN3: The Minister advised that she would write to Ministerial colleagues about how they are listening to older people.**

The Minister thanked everyone for the discussion and departed.

## **ITEM 4 – DISCUSSION TO AGREE PRIORITY AREAS FOR FRAMEWORK. SUMMARY OF NEW ACTIONS AND/OR NEXT STEPS**

### **GROUP FEEDBACK**

#### **Point 1: Voice and experience in policy and delivery**

- Voices need to be much stronger in saying impact of each individual policy
- People need to be supported in representing older people – and cross-sector approach, especially disability and health.
- More impact analysis should be involved in policy development.
- Other groups could bring information to this group e.g. Service providers as well as policy developers e.g. The Alliance, a disability organisation etc.
- The role of government is to lead by showing a good process -leadership will assist the process.
- Make sure we're not just consulting with structured groups, least confident and socially connected people are often not a part of established groups.
- Intergenerational conversations are key.
- Make sure policy is relevant and assure people their voice will be heard.
- Homogenous voice of older people.
- Must be aware of intersectionality, different issues for different sections of society, must be conscious of the equality aspect of the issue.

- In the most part, policy is ok, implementation of policy is the problem and needs to be worked on.
- Groundwork just as important as development.
- Money and resources.
- Destruction of local government infrastructure in community work, was previously their main remit and now does not exist.
- Where can housing associations find funding? This process isn't mapped out anywhere within the SG plan.
- Lack of financial investment, there is a need for a better funded and future infrastructure.
- Urban/rural divide in Scotland must be accounted for.
- Increasing amount of consultation and engagement, that needs to balance out with the actual implementation of the policies on the ground.
- Money and energy has gone into the engagement, the same should be going in to the implementation and delivery of policies.
- Winter heating allowance – policy still exists but it isn't half as useful as it was when it was first introduced, evaluations need to take place.

## **Point 2: Positive contribution**

- There is a need for balance. What is the overall aggregate impact of the volunteering.
- Grandparents looking after young grandchildren so that middle generations can go out and work but also looking after elderly parents (sandwich generation)
- Needs to be positive campaign about what older people (over 50) are actually contributing to.
- Government needs to lead the change in conversation about the older population being to blame for health service pressures.

## **ACTION JUN4: Sean Stronach asked attendees if they had any examples of negative SG messaging on older people to please send them to us**

- Global age friendly cities 2006 – a global network which has a UK network association. Wales and Northern Ireland are also participating. Perhaps should be looked at as an example of what already exists.
- Glasgow is an age friendly cities, dedicates 2 hours a week to the officer in charge.
- Leader of Glasgow Council used to work for age Scotland and this should be more of a priority.
- 6/10 older people go on to be carers.
- Older people provide a lot of services in terms of the community.
- The top 20% of people on income are frequent volunteers however poorer people tend not to be. There is a definite class issue with this, citizens income is a way of tackling this. Wealth gap needs work. A way to combat negative perceptions is to talk about positives.
- Tendency to drop policy and then reinvent it. Must look at the things that really work and consider why trials didn't work and why. Tendency for pilots to be established and then be forgotten about.

- Media very hesitant to report positive stories. Journalists should be invited along to the forum to discuss good news stories and social media should be better used.
- Andrew Wilson (growth commission report) stated in Sunday Mail – “to pay for an increasingly ageing population” not one other group is mentioned. Precisely what needs to be tackled.
- Scottish Government should fund local authorities better in order for them to reinvigorate local services for the elderly.
- Pensions and state retirement age are crucial when it comes to elderly experience. Although pensions are not a devolved matter, SG could send a message to Westminster that it would support a living pension. Thinking across government needed about the face of different campaigns.
- Secretariat function would be useful for keeping the group updated on all other things going on by OPSAF members.
- Dental care and podiatry for the elderly. Mental health and mental health strategy, still some chance to influence. Very keen on Ms Freeman’s discussion with Mr Matheson.
- Lord Bracadales recommendations on hate crime need to go further. Should be harsher prosecutions where it can be shown that an older person was victimised because of their vulnerability.
- AEA are about to embark on a project about financial crime in relation to older people.

## **ITEM 5 – AOB**

Next meeting TBC, but likely September 2018.

**List of June Actions**

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**ACTION JUN2:** The Minister advised that Jamie Dougall and Lesley Fraser would be made aware of OPSAF's interest in their work, noting a strategic approach was necessary for this work.

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