

Chairs of English Forums on Ageing 20 September 2012

Attendees

Keith Sherman	West Midlands Later Life Forum
Peter Coleing	East of England - Future East
Tony Watts	South West Forum on Ageing
Pam Flynn	Future North West
Bill Ions	North East - Years Ahead
Liz Mandeville	East Midlands Later Life Forum
David Shalit	Positive Ageing in London
Terry Paget	West Midlands Later Life Forum
Shelagh Marshall	Yorkshire & The Humber – Future Years
Jean Gaston-Parry	South East England Forum on Ageing
Brian Warwick	South West Forum on Ageing
Emily Georghiou	Age UK – Age Action Alliance Secretariat
Russell Taylor	DWP
Simon Wilkinson	DWP
Ken Cooper	DWP – Minutes
Kate Adams	Age UK Partnership Manager

Apologies

Charlie Hislop	South East England Forum on Ageing
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Part 1: Age Action Alliance Reference Group

1. **Agreed Actions from Reference Group Meeting 13.6.12:** All Action Points have been cleared with exception of no.7, which is still outstanding; the working group meeting next on 24.10.12.
2. It was suggested that the contact list needed to be kept up to date by regular reviews.
3. Item 4, Helen White from the Association of British Insurers (ABI) had reported back how successful their previous meeting with the Reference Group had been from their perspective and that they were keen to hold future meetings with the Group. Helen had reported that the meeting had been useful in developing their engagement with older people and that they were keen to build on the relationship. (Update: subsequent to the meeting Russell has been approached by the ABI keen to explore how they engage once again with the Group. Russell will send a holding response, and explore the possibility of the ABI attending the next Chairs meeting)
4. A general discussion followed where examples of poor service within the insurance industry for older customers were highlighted. It was suggested that the group needed to provide ABI with specific details such as these,

rather than generalities, to outline the problems faced by older people.
Action Point: Chairs to provide actual examples to Russell that could be put to the ABI at any future meeting

Liz provided an example of travel insurance through her Lloyds TSB bank account. *Update: Keith provided further information on this example the next day: "I have checked with Lloyds TSB this morning and it might be useful to add a post note to the minutes that this depends on what sort of account that you have with the bank, it is true that with what they call a 'silver' account, cover ceases at 65, but with a 'gold' account or higher cover continues to the age of 80. Of course you pay more for a gold etc account but I personally believe that it still represents a good deal particularly if you are able to maintain a minimum balance in your account in which case it is almost free, almost because you are not of course earning any interest on that balance".*

5. **Update from Steering Group Meeting 3.7.12:** Peter and Pam gave an update to the group on the meeting which they had attended to discuss the future of the Steering Group. There had been a number of options discussed, but the eventual recommendation was a **Partnership Board which would comprise of a 50/50 mix of older people and other members of the Alliance**. This would ensure the basic principal that the work of the Alliance should be driven by older people.
6. There followed a general discussion on the proposal and the actual size of the Board. The unanimous agreement of the meeting was that the Reference Group would endorse the 50/50 principle and guaranteed that they would provide the older people required to meet the 50/50 requirement; but also accepted that some of that 50% might be taken up by other older people representative groups, including from the devolved nations. Final numbers would depend upon the take up of Board Places by other organisations (e.g. 5 other organisations, 5 older people). **Action Point: Review at next meeting the number of Representatives required from the EFA's and agree those representatives**
7. A question was raised around funding travel costs. It was suggested that a similar arrangement to the funding of AGEnda be adopted, with each Forum contributing a sum to a central pot. This was considered a feasible option, but a final decision was deferred to a future meeting once the requirement is better known. **Action Point : Review expense funding for Partnership Board at next meeting.**
8. Following the discussion, Russell and Simon thanked the Reference Group for adopting such a flexible approach and said that the Secretariat would now work up a proposal to take forward.
9. **Promotion of EFA as a vehicle for consultation:** General feeling that although there had been some previous good examples of involvement in consultations, but that it had gone very quiet in recent months with not many consultations in evidence. One problem identified was a tendency

for specific groups to be asked to contribute, and very short deadlines being set for responses.

10. It was pointed out that the lack of consultation by government departments goes against the fundamental recommendations of Elbourne and the Government's response.
11. There are lots of areas where contributions to consultation would be helpful; for example The Social Care White Paper, where announcement of the funding cap for care costs is apparently being held back until the next Comprehensive Spending Review.
12. It was stated that what was needed was consultation at the lowest possible level, and that the forums were ideally placed to make this a reality.
13. Shelagh raised the issue of getting EFA reps onto Parliamentary Committees. **Action Point: Shelagh to email details to rest of group.**
14. The consensus was that the forums needed much wider input into consultations so that older people's voices had a greater base than just the forum chair's input. There is a need for meaningful consultation rather than virtual support.

Part 2 EFA Chairs Meeting:

15. **Kate Adams:** Kate attended as a guest speaker and gave a presentation about her role as Partnership Manager with Age UK and more generally about how Age UK worked with partner organisations.
16. Kate's presentation was followed by a number of questions being put to her by the group, who were generally supportive, but had concerns about Age UK National not necessarily claiming to be the voice of older people.
17. It was proposed and accepted that there be a standing agenda item at future EFA Chairs meetings to discuss issues relating to relationships with local and National Age UK. **Action Point : Include Age UK relationship issues on next agenda.**

18. Minutes from Last Meeting:

- AP1: Chairs still need to inform Helen/Tony who will be their regional contacts for AGEnda. (**Not cleared carried forward.**)
- AP2: Tony reminded the group that he needs to receive items for inclusion in AGEnda by the 1st of every month, but encouraged people to send him things regularly, rather than saving them up.
- AP3: Cleared

- AP4: Peter still to circulate reports on workshops, Safeguarding case study and 'Silver Circles' project.
- AP5: Cleared

It was felt that the group needed more input from DH about their plans and direction of travel. It was suggested that Nicola Gregson from Wiltshire CC be invited to a future meeting. **Action Point: Invite Nicola to a future meeting**

19. **AGenda:** Tony reported that AGenda was an evolving product and that the information is put on the website, which is updated most days. Reflecting feedback, future editions are likely to be smaller, with links to articles to avoid huge downloads. AGenda can now be followed on Twitter and Facebook.
20. Tony reported that he will have enough funds for the next 12 months.
21. Some Forums are disseminating the downloads, but this is not always happening. Promoting the use of the website, and possibly the use of Blogs could highlight items of interest. Other suggestions included links to the AAA mail shot, the website and an APP to highlight inputs.

AOB

22. Russell reported that following discussions, NEA have agreed to train local forum reps as Energy Efficiency Champions. It has been agreed that they will run 27 workshops throughout the UK, although details have still to be finalised. Funding is still being worked out, but money will be available. **Action Point: Russell to provide further details to the group once known. (Update e-mail sent to chair's 24/09)**
23. Pam reported that the North West will be holding the first AAA Regional meeting on the 25th September, and she will update the group on it's outcome. **Action Point: Pam to update the group on the outcome of the NW Regional AAA meeting.**
24. Liz reported that the Social Value Act has been mentioned (expected in 2013). She will email details to the group. **Action Point: Liz to email information about the Act to the group.**
25. Money is available from the Big Lottery Fund, but groups need to find out how to tap into it. **(Update please see Sept's LL Newsletter - issue No. 39)**
26. The new Police Commissioners are due to be selected in a month's time. This is a good opportunity for individuals/forums to approach candidates.
27. Future East has need been granted charitable status – For more information approach Peter.

28. Shelagh agreed to email details of the Isolation and Loneliness knowledge hub that she has established in her Region. **Action Point: Shelagh to email details of Isolation and Loneliness knowledge hub to the group.**

Next Meeting of the English Chairs Thursday 6.12.12

Summary of Action Points from Reference Group meeting

AP1: Chairs to provide actual examples to Russell that could be put to the ABI at any future meeting

AP2: Review at next meeting the number of Representatives required from the EFA's and agree those representatives

AP3: Review expense funding for Partnership Board at next meeting.

AP4: Shelagh to email details of accessing Parliamentary Committees to rest of group.

Summary of Action Points from Chairs meeting

AP5: Include Age UK relationship issues on next agenda.

AP6: Invite Nicola Gregson to a future meeting.

AP7: Russell to provide further details of the Energy Efficiency Champions workshops to the group once known.

AP8: Pam to update the group on the outcome of the NW Regional AAA meeting.

AP9: Liz to email information about the Social Value Act to the group.

AP10: Action Point: Shelagh to email details of Isolation and Loneliness knowledge hub to the group.