

**FEEDBACK FROM MEETING OF THE AAA'S AGE FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTS**  
**WORKING GROUP: 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2013 AT CAXTON HOUSE, LONDON**

On behalf of Future Years (and LOPF) I attended the above meeting. This was the fourth meeting of the Group but my first. There was representation from Manchester City Council, Manchester University, Age UK, the Beth Johnson Foundation, DWP, the Gulbenkian Foundation, East of England Forum on Ageing, and Boots.

The notes of the last meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012 were agreed. I have a hard copy of those notes but they can be seen on the AAA website.

Helen Dimmock (DWP Secretariat) updated the Group on AAA developments:

- there is no longer a Steering Group but a Partnership Board, which met for the first time in November, on which older people have 50% of the seats. It is important that they drive the work
- There are now 11 Working Groups with the latest being the Transport Group which I also attend).
- The Beth Johnson Foundation has proposed a further WG on “international collaboration on Age Friendly Cities
- Membership of AAA has now reached 300, with 700 twitter followers
- AAA and UKAFA now work more closely
- The North West region will very shortly launch its own version of the Age Action Alliance
- A new website is under development and is expected to launch in April. ACTION: IF ANY Ageing Fora have good photos showing older people please send on to Helen. Each EFA will be able to have its own page. ACTION: Volunteers sought from each WG to edit the Group's pages. A Job Description will be prepared and circulated.
- Eileen Squires, Head of Division in DWP, has recently moved on and been replaced by Andrew Latto

Paul McGarry (Chair from Manchester CC) then outlined the recent work of the UK Friendly City Network (which includes Leeds and Sheffield from our region). He said that it had been established last September and was a collaborative of 10 UK cities with representation from Scotland, NI and Wales as well as England. Discussions were underway with the World Health Organisation to have the network formally recognised. An April launch was being planned for its work programme (watch this space). Resources had been obtained from the Baring Foundation to carry out work on culture and ageing and 4 Enquiry visits, using an Action Learning Model, to Cities in the network had been made to date. He thought that an effective start had been made but there needs to be greater recognition that the current austerity climate would make a huge impact on the work and priorities of the Network.

It was understood that the Big Lottery would shortly announce details of its new programme aimed at older people with an expected focus on loneliness and social isolation. Proposals are expected to cover District level and the Voluntary Sector would be invited to bid in partnership with funding up to 5 years. Further details to be announced after a BL Trustees meeting later this month.

ACTION: keep an eye on developments.

An international level research network was being developed around the theme of “population ageing and urbanisation”. There is a meeting next month in Brussels around greater involvement of older people in urban design and Dublin was hosting a EU Summit on Active and Healthy Ageing on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June ( I have a flyer if anyone is interested).

Greg Lewis (Age UK) said that they were undertaking an internal review of policies around age friendly environments . There is a one page briefing paper on their website (ACTION: worth taking a look).

The discussion then centred on the next “big idea” for this Group to focus on. 4 suggested themes emerged:

1. Impact of cuts on housing\ austerity measures on an age friendly approach. Can we promote ways to mitigate the impact of these measures? Paul mentioned that the City Council and NW TUC were running a conference on “Ageing and Austerity” on 26<sup>th</sup> March. ACTION: Find out more details of programme and speakers.
2. Urban planning and design. Are we designing well for an increasingly older population? Need roundtable discussion with, for example, RIBA, TCPA, Tenants Groups, Friends of the Earth etc.
3. Production of a Guide on how to make a locality Place and Age Friendly, using lessons learned and issues emerging from work being led by Manchester University in the Old Moat area of the City.
4. How to test models of all the age friendly agendas. Group to consider undertaking some scoping work.

It was agreed that each proposer would work up a single A4 sheet and send to Paul, Alan ( BJF) and Helen who would work together to move forward for the next Group meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May in Manchester ( 1pm til 3.30pm).

John Welham

8/2/13