



Awayday

Monday, March 16th, Lateral, Leeds

PRESENT:

Trude Silman – Leeds Older People’s Forum

Betty Armstrong –

Diane Wardley –Jenny Dobson – Big Lottery

Neil Martin – Future Years

Mary Laurenson –Sue Mann

Shelagh Marshall	Future Years Chair, North Yorkshire County Councillor, Various North Yorkshire Forums
George Wood	Future Years, Vice Chair, York Older People’s Assembly
John Welham	Future Years, Vice Chair, Leeds Older People’s Forum
Jo Volpe	Future Years
Mary Laurenson	Future Years, Age UK Hull
Paul Russell	Future Years, Yorkshire Retired TUC
Neil Martin	Future Years
Hilary Thompson	Future Years, Age UK Calderdale and Kirkleees
Mashud Haque	Future Years, Bradford District Senior Power
Wendy Cocks	Future Years, Care and Repair
Jenny Dobson	Big Lottery
Simon Wilkinson	DWP
Diane Wardley	Doncaster Mature Action Group (DONMAG)
Betty Armstrong	Doncaster Mature Action Group (DONMAG)
Sue Mann	Facilitator

AGENDA FOR THE DAY

Scene setting.
Last year's work plan and what remains to be covered.
Moving on – discussion focused on the work Future Years wants to focus on in the coming year.
How to take the work forward
What is the purpose of Future Years: recap
Developing the 'How': Structure, Communications, Engagement

SETTING THE SCENE: SHELAGH MARSHALL / JOHN WELHAM

In the late 1990s **Better Government for Older People (BGOP)** was established and North Yorkshire was one of 28 pilots chosen to develop ways of engaging with older people so that their views could be taken into account when developing new policies. This was the start off 50+ Forums across the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Representatives of each BGOP came together to form the **Older People's Action Group (OPAG)**.

Future Years was established in 2005.

In 2008 the **Elbourne Report** was commissioned by the Government. To look at ways in which the Government could engage with older people and ensure that a firmer engagement structure was in place.

In 2009 each Government Regional Office was tasked with setting up a Regional Forum on Ageing, based on the Yorkshire and Humber model (Future Years). Funding for Future Years was received from the Regional Development Agency and Government Regional Offices became responsible for monitoring the new forums. Funding and monitoring later moved to the Department of Work and Pensions.

In 2009 the Government also set up the **UK Advisory Forum on Ageing (UKAFA)**.

In 2010 the Coalition Government continued support for Forums and UKAFA but closed the Government Regional Offices.

In 2015 the Government announced the end of funding for the regional forums and UKAFA. Responsibility for the 9 regional forums was taken from the DWP. The expectation is that each government department would use an Equality Impact Assessment when developing new policies and strategies to ensure that older people are not adversely affected.

In December 2015 £6,900 was allocated to each regional forum, to be paid from April 2016 on production of a 6 month work plan. There were separate announcements about the level of expenses to be paid to regional representatives attending various working groups.

Until a few weeks ago we had thought that we could be talking today about the viability of continuing Future Years, However, because the Department of Work and Pensions have very recently allocated all the English Forums on Ageing (in full) 6 months transition funding we now have an opportunity to consider new ways of working and what our priorities should be. Future Years will need to relate its work plan for 2016/17 to wider later life policy issues such as the key priorities of Lord Filkin's Centre for Ageing Better, the recent Local Government Association "Silver Linings" Report, the House of Commons Select Committee on Intergenerational Fairness, as well as changes to Pensions , Social Care and Welfare etc. There is also a need to consider how Future Years can plug into other local Forums across Yorkshire and Humber.

LAST YEAR'S WORK PLAN: JOANNE VOLPE

<p>Outcome 1</p> <p>Encourage and influence so older people's organisations across the region understand the impact of the new government on welfare reform and the impact this could have on older people.</p>	<p>Work outstanding</p> <p>Seek funding to use the material deprivation questionnaire with older people and their organisations, to identify community solutions. Should this still be taken on?</p>
<p>Outcome 2 <i>(subject to expected availability of funding)</i></p> <p>Older people are more aware of combatting fuel poverty. Future Years to sponsor NEA to run sub-area workshops to train accredited energy champions</p>	<p>Some groups need still to provide feedback on outcomes to Future Years.</p>
<p>Outcome 4:</p> <p>Encourage older people's organisations to influence the work of local authorities and CCGs through encouraging attendance at Health and Wellbeing Boards, Healthwatch, Scrutiny Panels, CCG events, dementia forums and transport and housing forums....</p>	<p>6 peer education sessions for older people's organisations held across the region. Workshops will have the theme of loneliness and cover how older people can influence structures to reduce loneliness amongst older people.</p> <p>Feedback to Future Years Forum meetings and delegates who attend workshops.</p> <p>Share information with the Local Authority older people's champions.</p> <p>2 workshops to carry forward onto next year's plan.</p>
<p>Outcome 5</p>	

<p>The voices of older people in Yorkshire & Humber are heard at regional, national and ministerial levels and influences policy development.</p>	<p>More work needs to be done on how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify consultations from gov.uk website. • Complete at least 3 consultations. • Task and finish group to be established to set protocols of tweeting in Future Years name. More work on social media needed.
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Also work on concessionary fares need to be added to the work plan.

MOVING ON: WORK FOR THE COMING YEAR

What should Future Years be doing?

Group 1

- Future Years has a remit to help prepare for old age. We should embrace this role as there is less and less retirement training.
- Talk more about dying matters so it's not a taboo subject.
- Living longer with less money (and fewer people to support us).
- Working across communities and not just with older people. Developing connectivity between age groups.
- More influencing work with businesses.
- Engaging properly across the whole region – plugging the gaps.
- How to feedback effectively to key people.

Group 2

Two interlinked areas:

PENSIONS / PENSION INEQUALITY

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

(inc Health within Communities with the present limitations on public health and Understanding Changes in Hospitals)

Implications for both central and local policy.

Digital way of working

Group 3

- Future Years needs to revisit its Terms of Reference:
 - What is its raison d'être?
 - Are the Terms of Reference still relevant?
- How well known are these?
- Develop a mini programme of education to support groups to develop their influencing skills.
- The sustainability of Future Years – a small group needs to look at options for the future.
- Look at where Future Years can be most effective. – pick your fights in the best places.

A possible topic to work on could be Transport – developing influencing strategies and offer support to

SUMMARY

- One area where delegates thought Future Years has a role is to be an **information provider**. An example given was the Pension Credit workshops run over the past year when Future Years helped to provide information on what people's rights are in relation to this. Other areas mentioned were topics related to Pensions and Pension Inequality, Health and Wellbeing, Preparation for Old Age.
- However, there was a great emphasis on the **way** of working so that Future Years can make a difference whatever the topic or whoever a group is trying to influence. As a result, there was discussion as to how Future Years could improve its own skills in this area as well as supporting other forums to think about ways in which they can work to enhance their influencing success.

HOW TO TAKE THE WORK FORWARD: JOANNE VOLPE

Changes to the structure of Future Years had followed the previous Awayday.

- The Committee meets quarterly. Their meetings now have a different focus and they aim to expand membership and engage more broadly by holding an information session in the morning, having a networking lunch. The formal committee meeting take place in the afternoon and includes Future Years business as well as sub regional reports.
- There is an Operational Group comprising the Chair, 2 Vice Chairs and the Co-ordinator. This meets every 6 weeks or so and deals with the day to day running of Future Years.

Questions:

- Is this pattern to continue?
- Are the sub regional reports of value or might it better to take a more topic based approach?
- Is the name Future Years still appropriate? Does it communicate what Future Years wants to do?
- There are a variety of ways that Future Years uses to communicate e.g. e-bulletins, workshops, meetings. Are there other ways of communicating?

RECAP: THE PURPOSE OF FUTURE YEARS.

Group 1

- To **cascade information** by means of meetings, events, newsletters and any other effective means whether face to face or electronic.
- **Signposting.**
- **Sharing** common issues and solutions.
- Create a **two way flow of information** to enhance local influencing while, at the same time, providing an evidence base.
- **Interpret government speak.**
- **Celebrate** richness and counteract negativity.
- Identify **priorities** of older people.

Group 2

- **Interpreting information**, both local and national.
- **Enhance the skills** of those who need to use that information.
- **Influence** national policy by participating in relevant consultations.

Group 3

- Provide a **conduit** so that older people receive information and can communicate their views.
- **Inform and influence.**
- **Facilitate, encourage.**

Key words / phrases

Share / cascade information and solutions.

Signpost.

Prioritise.

Provide the means for a 2 way flow of information /conduit

Interpret government speak and communicate this.

Enhance skills to enable forums to influence locally.

Influence nationally.

Facilitate and encourage.

Celebrate.

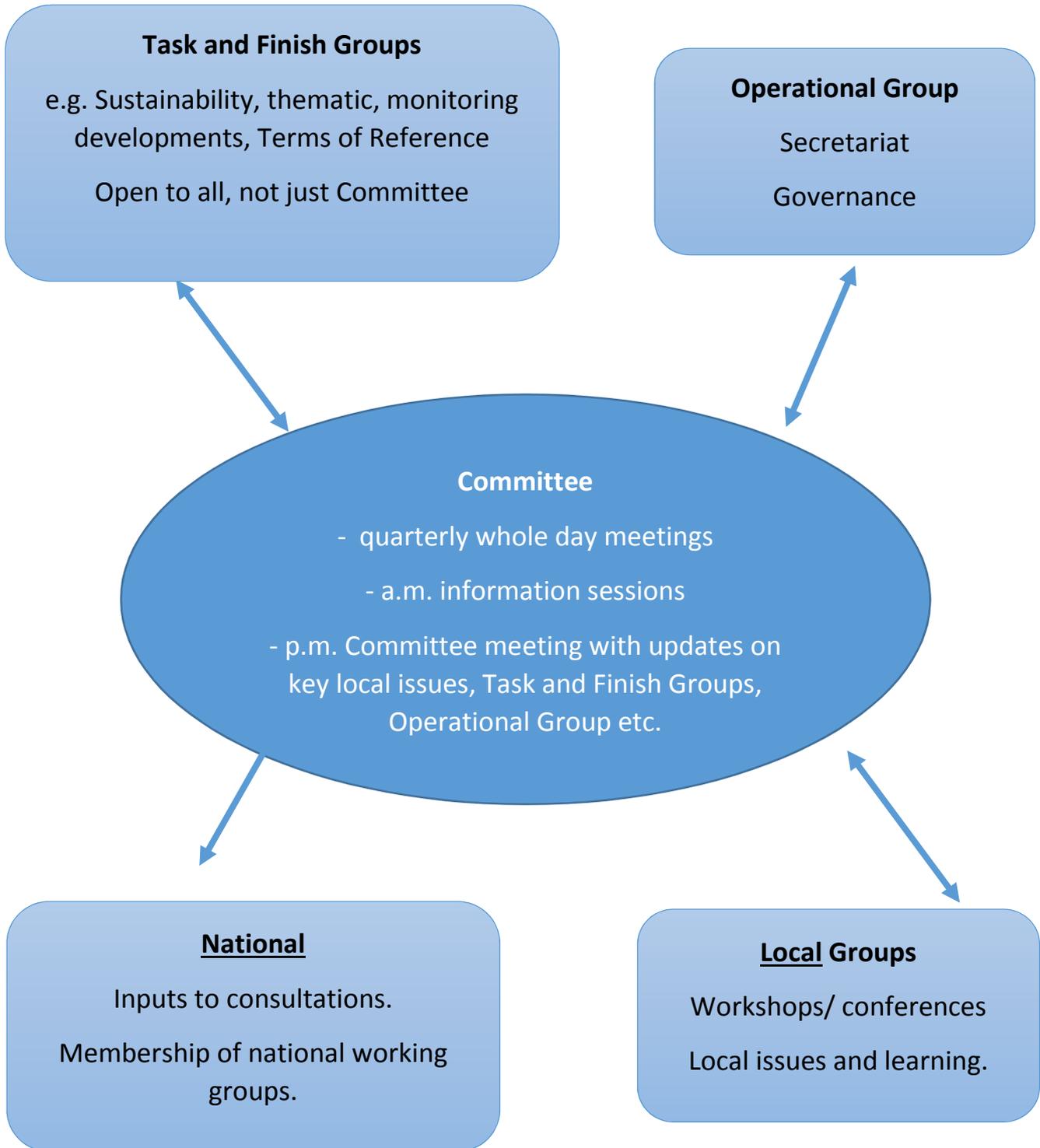
STRUCTURE, COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

There was discussion as to how these three areas can contribute to the future work of Future Years.

Structure

- There should be a single action / work plan which can demonstrate accountability to whoever is providing funding.
- The Committee should continue to be central to the functioning of Future Years with a **2 way flow of information** between it and the other elements of Future Year's work.
- These elements include the Operational Group, Task and Finish Groups. Other elements can be added as appropriate.

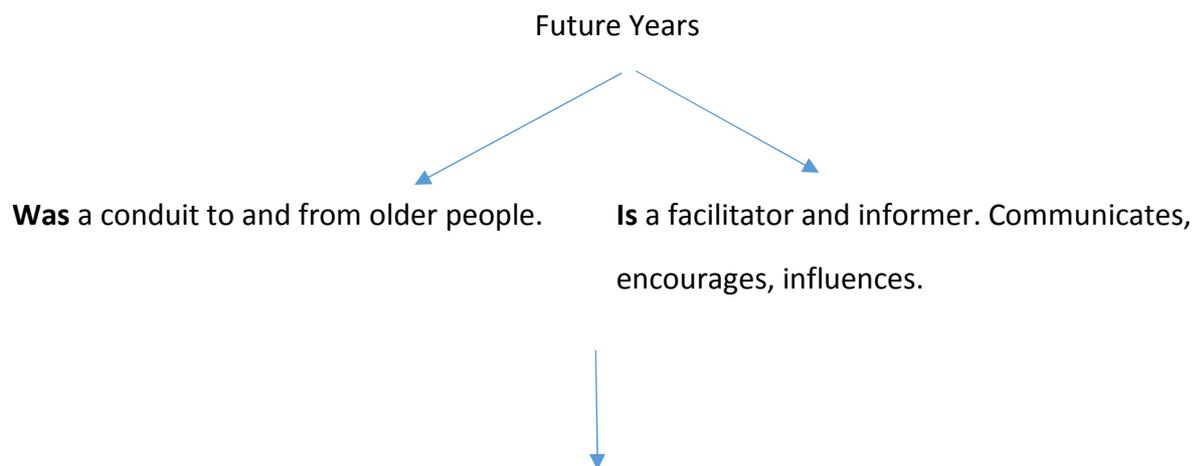
See diagram on next page to illustrate the proposed structure.



Communications

- Ask the 'so what' question – what difference will any communication make?
- Who? Why? What?
- Think about internal external communications.
- Where are the missing voices? Sheffield, NE Lincs and others.
- Go out more to local forums to **listen**.
- Widen the net e.g. business.
- Work with Older People's Champions.
- Cultivate media links and cascade 'good news' stories.
- Make better use of social media – blogs, Twitter, Facebook – to widen the audience and area of influence.
- Think about a wider range of ways to make contact – video links, webinars, workshops, face to face meetings.
- Alert groups like CCG's to the role of Future Years so that they know how it can be a useful resource for them.
- Grow the membership.

Engagement



In the future

- Continue to do those things and to act as a facilitator, gathering the voices of local forums and feeding this information through to relevant groups who need to hear those voices.
- Need to find more effective means of hearing local Older People's Forums (see Communication).
- Hold a conference to hear those views.
- Continue and extend the quarterly morning events (1 topic).
- Continue with workshops to attract more older people.
- Try to engage in all 15 local authority areas across Yorkshire and Humber.

KEY POINTS FROM THE DAY

- The landscape has changed. A key factor here is that changes to the structures and loss of funding means that the direct route to ministers is no longer available to regional forums.
- However, there are other opportunities and these need to be explored e.g. feeding information through to Parliamentary Select Committees.
- There is only Government funding for 6 months from April. This is a challenge but could also be liberating.
- Future Years has identified the fact that there are opportunities to work more locally and to place emphasis there.
- Try to find ways of increasing influence by working across communities and not just with older people. Encourage local forums to think in this way.
- Future Years has a role, not only as an information provider, but also as a facilitator, helping local forums to develop their influencing skills.
- Communications between Future Years and local forums need to be 2 way in order to inform them but also to create an evidence base.
- Some adjustments to the structure of Future Years could support a new way of working. These are not major but could involve more people, including those who are not Committee members in Task and Finish groups.