

**Notes of English Forum Chairs Meeting held on 9 June 2015**  
**at Caxton House, London**

**Present:** Marjory Broughton (Independent Chair); Peter Dale; Bill Ions; John Welham; Liz Mandeville; Gerry Calder; Anne Bailey; Irene Kohler; Noreen Haselden; Julia Pride (Secretariat)

**Apologies:** Tony Watts; Mervyn Eastman; Brian Warwick; Shelagh Marshall;

**1) Notes of last meeting and matters arising**

The notes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record

Matters arising:

- a) We agreed at the last meeting to share Forum workplans for 2015-16 and minutes of meetings (abbreviated if feasible). Helen to be asked if she would send them out once submitted. **ACTION: Marjory**
- b) It was agreed that as the role of the Forum Chairs is advisory not campaigning we do not support the use of a petition regarding a Commissioner for Older People for England.

**2) LGA report and follow up work**

The launch date for the LGA report for the work to which the Forum Chairs contributed is 24 June. SEEFA will be attending but no other Chairs have received an invitation.

**ACTION: Marjory to ask Helen** to take this up for us with the LGA.

We believe it is essential Forum Chairs have an ongoing role in the roll out of the project. SEEFA will be pushing for this. The previous LGA later life project, Ageing Well, has recently been reviewed. Info is available on the LGA website.

**3) Forum Chairs' role and strategy**

The Forum Chairs' approach is strategic in relation to such later life issues as digital inclusion and loneliness and isolation. We inform, influence and engage but do not campaign or lobby. It was agreed that the Group needed to have a clear identity which could be communicated in such a way as to increase our impact when intervening on ageing and later life issues. A short written description about the English Chairs is needed, including a strapline. **ACTION: Tony Watts** to be asked if he is willing to do this.

We also need our own headed paper/logo (which may already be in existence).

**ACTION: Marjory and Julia** to find or produce a new one.

We agreed the relationship of the English Chairs with the Centre for Ageing Better is a key one. We agreed to invite Lord Filkin to a meeting and to see if we can help them. We are also interested to see if older people are adequately represented on their Board. If not we could offer to be on their Board. **ACTION: John Welham** to draft a letter.

#### 4) UKAFA

We see UKAFA as an essential part of a chain of engagement and influence between older people and policy makers and recognise there is scope for improving the process. We discussed the UKAFA review and believe effectiveness would be improved if this group's Independent Chair had a place. We would like to see the agenda in advance so UKAFA reps prepare using their Forum Chair's input. We would like to see input from more Government Departments. This could be from civil servants or members. A strategic approach should be adopted by UKAFA reps and it is important the business of the meetings is not diverted by individual agendas, which does occasionally happen. Training/information on the role of the UKAFA reps and how to influence effectively could be useful. We'd like to see more focus on the value and contribution of older people rather than on the problems of later life. We wonder if MPs know about UKAFA and whether more could be done to publicise it as a forum for dialogue and engagement. **ACTION: Marjory (and all)** to approach Helen with these suggestions later in the meeting.

#### 5) Briefing from DWP: Helen Dimmock

Helen was welcomed to the meeting.

- a) Two new Ministers are in place for UKAFA: Ros Altman, Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions and Alistair Burt, Minister of State for Community and Social Care. Both know their subjects well. A new budget is awaited and cuts are expected.
- b) UKAFA review. Points noted above were put to Helen who will take them into account. **ACTION: Helen** to copy to Forum Chairs the info sent to UKAFA reps one month before the UKAFA meeting. **ACTION: all Chairs** to discuss the importance of effective influencing and forthcoming UKAFA agenda with UKAFA reps prior to next meeting to ensure they are on message.
- c) It was agreed the English Forum Chairs will lead a session at UKAFA on 16 September on good practice in engagement. **ACTION: all to meet on 25 August to plan the session. Helen will place on the UKAFA agenda**
- d) Quarterly monitoring. Helen asked that we produce quarterly reports, monitoring activity and spend. **ACTION: all Chairs**
- e) AAA Energy Awareness events. We are all asked to consider running the events. **ACTION: all Chairs**
- f) AAA Digital Inclusion. Our attention was drawn to the work of David Wilcox.
- g) NDA Handbook – copies were circulated.

#### 6) AOB

- a) Bill circulated information about a survey done by his Forum on green man crossing times and how relatively simple actions can be effective in making change happen. Further information is available from Bill Ions.
- b) Also from the North East a 'healthy life simulation' will take place with the Forum Board. Again further information from Bill Ions
- c) Future Years encourages people to complete the Concessionary Fare's survey – **ACTION: Julia** to circulate link to all

- 7) **Date of next meeting:** 25 August 11.00am to 3.00 pm at Caxton House (Room booked).  
This meeting's main agenda item will be preparation for the presentation on good practice in engagement at the UKAFA meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September.