

# Meeting of the EFA Chairs

## Notes and Actions

13.30 – 15.15 13th June 2012

DWP, Caxton House, Room 3.43

**Attendees:** Charlie Hislop (SE); Keith Sherman (West Midlands), Peter Coleing (East of England), Liz Mandeville (East Midlands); David Shalit (London); Shelagh Marshall (Yorkshire and The Humber); Bill Ions (NE); via tele-conference: Pam Flynn (NW); Tony Watts (SW).

**Notes:** Helen Dimmock & Simon Wilkinson (DWP)

Item	Content
	<p>The meeting agreed that Keith and Peter would act as Co-Chairs of the EFA Chairs Group, and Keith took over as Chair of the meeting.</p>
2	<p><b>Action Points from previous meeting</b> AP8: cleared AP9: cleared/ongoing (especially for Helen) AP10: cleared</p>
3	<p><b>AGEnda: progress and update – Tony Watts</b></p> <p>Tony explained the latest developments with the newsletter for the EFAs. He has been focused on getting the website up and running. The Chairs thanked Tony for his work on this which they thought was excellent.</p> <p>All of the EFAs have now agreed the funding for AGEnda. The need for a printer friendly version was reiterated and a schedule of deadlines was requested. The aim is to produce an issue every two months; moving to a monthly edition would cost an additional £150 for each one which could be split between all EFAs. Chairs were encouraged to advertise their events on the site.</p> <p><b>Action 1:</b> All chairs to inform Helen and Tony who/what they want to use as their regional contact for the AGEnda website.</p> <p><b>Action 2:</b> Tony to provide the chairs with a schedule of deadline dates in order for Chairs to submit articles from their Forums on a regular basis.</p> <p>Tony advised that it was mistakenly thought that monies from the EFA's for AGEnda could be paid into the SW Foundation's bank account.</p> <p><b>Action 3:</b> Tony/the SW foundation to return the payments already made, with instructions as to where to correctly make the replacements payments, together with an appropriate invoice.</p>
4	<p><b>Taking EFA business forward to UKAFA – Charlie Hislop/All</b></p> <p>The Group discussed how they were able to influence the UKAFA agenda. The process by which Geoff had gathered items for consideration was discussed and it was suggested that it would be useful to run this exercise again but in a simpler way.</p>

	<p>Helen explained it was necessary to balance what the Government and Ministers wanted to engage on with the issues the EFAs and other stakeholders to discuss. An Intern is joining the team over the summer to take forward the review of UKAFA. Chairs were urged to participate in this review and were encouraged at any time to send Gwen items they would like to see on future agendas.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><b>EFA business/updates/good practice – All</b></p> <p><b>South East:</b> Charlie said they are working with Brighton on its plans to become an Age-friendly City.</p> <p><b>Yorkshire and the Humber:</b> Shelagh has developed a good working relationship with David Oliver who is sharing papers with her that contain recommendations from DH meetings. It was suggested that Shelagh share this with others and that she post it on AGEnda to communicate it more widely.</p> <p><b>North West:</b> Pam mentioned that DWP were very willing to give talks on PIP. Future North West has a work plan with themes centred around Loneliness and Isolation, Housing, Social Care, Transport and Health.</p> <p><b>London:</b> Have had some interesting speakers and is working on driving up interaction at the meetings. They are planning a series of workshops and open conferences over the year.</p> <p><b>East Midlands:</b> Liz said they are holding a conference in October with the topic of “Ageing Positively”. The EFA have worked with Derby City Council using the diagnostic tool from the Ageing Well programme with a range of facilitators including EFA members who are older people. They have now been approached by a County Council to do another one. Interestingly the EFA are now starting to be approached by organisations who want to engage with them. They are developing a good relationship with East Midlands Councils.</p> <p><b>East of England:</b> Engagement with Health and Wellbeing Boards is an issue with previous engagement breaking down. Healthwatch is the avenue they are now being told to use but there is concern that this will not involve older people as much. They have a focus on Safeguarding as elder abuse is a growing issue and they held a successful workshop on this with a case study that would be useful to share with other EFAs. They have also held a workshop on “Care”. Peter said the EFA are working towards becoming a charity in their own right. They are also participating in a Comic Relief funded project called “Silver Circles”.</p> <p><b>Action 4:</b> Peter to circulate the reports from their two workshops, the Safeguarding case study, and details of the “Silver Circles” project.</p> <p><b>Action 5:</b> Secretariat to invite Age UK to a meeting to discuss how the forums can work with them.</p> <p><b>North East:</b> Brian has been elected the Vice Chair. The EFA has been reorganised and structured itself into 12 areas. They are looking to fill nine older people representatives vacancies. They are establishing a task and finish group with DWP to look at Attitudes to Ageing, as well as working on this theme with the Alliance, as well as looking at the engagement of older people in the North East.</p> <p><b>West Midlands:</b> Keith mentioned the most effective workshop at their recent conference was the one “Assistive Technology”. Keith recommended everyone buy a “Magic Plug” which would prevent your sink from every overflowing again. Keith believes those running the workshop would be willing to attend other Forums if asked.</p>

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**Date of next meetings:**

- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December