

## Chairs of English Forums on Ageing 6 December 2012

### Attendees

Pam Flynn	Future North West (Chair)
Peter Coleing	East of England - Future East
Marjory Broughton	South East England Forum on Ageing
Liz Mandeville	East Midlands Later Life Forum
David Shalit	Positive Ageing in London
Shelagh Marshall	Yorkshire & The Humber – Future Years
Jean Gaston-Parry	South East England Forum on Ageing
Helen White	Association of British Insurers
Sarah Tirrell	Association of British Insurers
Andrew Woolgar	Association of British Insurers
Helen Dimmock	DWP
Russell Taylor	DWP
Simon Wilkinson	DWP
Ken Cooper	DWP – Minutes

### Apologies

Keith Sherman	West Midlands Later Life Forum
Tony Watts	South West Forum on Ageing
Alan Patchett	Years Ahead (NE Forum on Ageing)

1. Pam welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised of apologies.
2. **ABI:** Helen, Andrew and Sarah attended the meeting on behalf of the Association of British Insurers to listen to the views of the group, and to offer a response to questions/comments that had been submitted in advance by Forum members.
3. There followed a lengthy discussion where Helen, Andrew and Sarah gave responses to the questions provided in advance of the meeting, and additional questions were asked by the group. Helen promised to provide the group with written responses to the questions raised.

**Action Point: Helen White to provide written responses to the questions raised by the group.**

4. Marjory pointed out that Travel and Housing were exempt from the Equality Act, and asked how that fitted with Human Rights.
5. As a result of the discussion, a number of other points and actions were highlighted, as follows:

6. **Car Insurance** – Age bands tend to be quite wide, but costs go up significantly after 80. There is an industry agreement that where a company is unable to offer insurance, they will sign post the customer to another provider. The general advice is to shop around or use a specialist broker. Andrew pointed out that the actual payouts for drivers aged 85+ were 87% higher than those for drivers 65+.

**Action Point: Andrew will provide details of the Signposting Service that is available.**

7. **Travel Insurance** – One of the reasons that travel insurance is so cheap is because they ask for very little information, which speeds up the process. This is why age is a factor, as on average there is more likelihood of health problems as you get older, and associated costs tend to be higher. Mention was made of the European Medical Card but it was pointed out that it didn't cover all situations or all countries.

8. **Flooding** – Questions were raised about the effect that flooding would have on the ability of affected older people to get housing insurance in the future. Helen reported that the ABI was currently in discussion with the government to come up with a solution. A possible option is for everyone to pay a little more to provide a pot to assist with this type of claim. ABI are asking government to provide a backstop in case of major flooding whilst funds in the pot are built up.

9. **Agreed Actions from Reference Group Meeting 20.9.12**: All Action Points have either been cleared or will be covered in the meeting.

10. Nicola Gregson from Wiltshire County Council is to be invited to the next meeting

**Action Point: Clarify with Brian Warwick, with a view to inviting Nicola Gregson to next meeting.**

11. Pam updated the group on the first meeting of the NW Regional Age Action Alliance. She said that it had been successful with 15 member groups attending; and agreement to take forward topics on Transport and Financial & Digital Inclusion.

12. Liz will email the details of the Social Value Act to be included in the minutes.

**Action Point: Liz to forward details of the Social Value Act.**

13. **Age Action Alliance Partnership Board**. The meeting had been very productive with a number of positive contributions. All keen to move forward and progress the Alliance. Of note Keith had asked members from the organisations why they were there and what did their organisations benefit from being a member. The responses confirmed that all saw value in remaining a member of the Partnership Board and for their organisation to be associated with the Alliance.

14. There followed a discussion about future EFA Chair representation at the Partnership Board. As there were seven members representing organisations/sectors, the chairs would need to match this. This number may need to be revised if the Devolved Nations provide representation in the future.
15. It was decided that a process should be agreed for selecting which Chairs should attend the Board in future.

**Action Point: Marjory, Liz and Shelagh to look at options and recommend a process to the Chairs at the next meeting.**

16. **AGEnda.** In Tony's absence, Simon updated the group on a number of issues Tony had intended to raise. He reminded the group that they had agreed to supply Tony with a regional contact as well as regular articles for inclusion. Currently there was a lack of content for AGEnda coming from the EFA's (apart from Yorkshire & Humber), and a real danger of AGEnda becoming not their newsletter. Simon suggested as a start could each Forum provide a pen picture of the chair, together with details of current activity, etc. This would not prevent regions submitting items at other times, but could provide a timetable each region could plan towards.

**Action Point: Chairs to inform Tony (and copy in Helen) who their contact is for AGEnda.**

17. **NEA Workshops Update.** Russell updated the group on the current situation regarding the workshops. Most had been booked, but there were still gaps, and West Midlands still had to confirm their sessions.

The group discussed the workshops, with some observing that they had had to put in a lot of time and effort in setting these up. There was also discussion about how valuable the training would be. Russell confirmed that in March NEA will be running a thorough evaluation of the training. Chairs were encouraged to feedback from the early events so that any initial short comings could be made known to NEA.

18. **House of Lords Roundtable.** Tony would be attending the HOL Committee as a representative for older people. Tony had asked other Chairs to let him know by the end of the week any issues/comments they would like him to take to the meeting.

**Action Point: Chairs to let Tony have any items for the HOL Roundtable by 8.12.12.**

19. **UKAFA Review.** Helen ran through the findings and current thinking on the Review. The group wanted to know when the reviews findings will next be discussed at UKAFA. The forums wanted to discuss the Review at their regional meetings, but some would not be meeting again until March. Ken said that it was unlikely that the Review would be discussed at UKAFA again before June.

**Action Point: Ken to ask Gwen to update the forum Chairs on when UKAFA was likely to discuss the Review next.**

20. **East Midlands.** Held a very successful conference (Ageing Positively) with a keynote address from the shadow Minister for Older People Liz Kendall. Facilitated table discussions brought up a number of issues. The final report from the conference will be available towards the end of January.
21. **SEEFA.** Marjory acting as interim chair until a new one is found (advert currently available). Planning a conference on Health in April/May. Hope to have new website up and running by February. Planning to elect a new UKAFA representative. Attended recent Age UK World Café, and looking at running one in the SE region at a later date.
22. **London.** Ran a successful workshop in November, and have planned four more next year, including a conference. Close relationship with Age UK.
23. **East of England.** Have made contact with the Transport Group and now looking for them to have a regular slot on the forum similar to Age UK. Peter made an open invite for any of the Chairs to attend one of their forum meetings.
24. **Yorks & Humber.** A recent Conference which focused on Loneliness and Isolation included representatives from DH and from Evan Morris of the Chief Fire Officers Association. Future Years now has its own knowledge hub website that brings together good practice from across the Region..
25. **North West.** Successful conference – ‘Staying Connected 2’ in September, which, included a housing workshop entitled Should I Stay, or Should I Go’, run jointly by JRT & Care and Repair ‘. NEA to speak at next forum meeting. Future NW has elected a new chair (Kevin Larkin) and deputy chair (Eileen Fitzgerald).
26. **North East.** Developing research on Material Deprivation Indicator which will be fed back to UKAFA ( in March).
27. **South West.** Moving towards charitable status; setting up an Older People’s Policy Panel through SW Seniors Network; running a housing workshop with Somerset County Council in January.
28. **West Midlands.** Looking to recruit a support worker to engage with more local forums; also working towards the annual assembly next March, which will have a theme of Active Ageing.

29. **AOB.** Liz advised the group of two new studies; a) Risk, Trust & Relationships in the Ageing Society; and b) Improving Decision Making in the Care of Older People.

**Action Point: Liz to forward details of the new studies for the group.**

**Next Meeting of the English Chairs Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013 12.00  
- 16.00 Caxton House**

**Summary of Action Points from Reference Group meeting**

**AP1: Helen White to provide written responses to the questions raised by the group.**

**AP2: Andrew will provide details of the Signposting Service that is available.**

**AP3: Invite Nicola Gregson to next meeting.**

**AP4: Liz to forward details of the Social Value Act.**

**AP5: Marjory, Liz and Shelagh to look at options and recommend a process to the Chairs at the next meeting.**

**AP6: Chairs to inform Tony (and copy in Helen) who their contact is for AGEnda.**

**AP7: Chairs to let Tony have any items for the HOL Roundtable by 8.12.12. – CLEARED**

**AP8: Ken to ask Gwen to update the forum Chairs on when UKAFA was likely to discuss the Review next.**

**AP9: Liz to forward details of the studies for the group.**