

Notes of English Forums Chairs Meeting on 10 February 2015

at Caxton House

Present: Marjory Broughton (Chair); Shelagh Marshall; Barry Wilford; Gerry Calder; Peter Dale; William Ions; Russell Taylor; Julia Pride (minutes);

Apologies: Helen Dimmock; Tony Watts; Mervyn Eastman; Liz Mandeville; Kevan Larkin; Anne Bailey; Brian Warwick

1. **Notes of last meeting** and matters arising – notes agreed. There were no matters arising.
2. **Funding 2015-16.** In Helen Dimmock's absence Russell Taylor presented 4 options on how DWP funding might be divided for UKAFA, PDG, 9 English Forums on Ageing and Chairs meetings. We are asked to examine the proposals and make our submissions on the preferred option to the DWP team by 20 February. **ACTION 1: All – deadline 20 February.**

Note due to uncertainties caused by the general election the English Chairs felt it important we submit our work plans for 2015-16 as soon as possible. Coping with funding uncertainties makes planning ahead difficult and this is liable to impact negatively on our work programmes.

3. **English Chairs on 17 March.** Attendance is limited to 2 people per region for this meeting due to space constraints. Please can all representatives from the English Regions confirm their attendance to me (please cc Helen, Russell and Louca) ASAP so that we can ascertain if further places can be made available? **ACTION 2: ALL (English Chairs and UKAFA Reps)**
4. **AAA Safe Warm Homes Group.** A publication has been produced by the AAA and the Dept of Energy and Climate Change on fuel poverty: the Fuel Poverty Action Guide. Russell suggested this could be included in English Forums' work plans for the coming year.
5. **English Forums Secretariat.** It was agreed SEEFA's offer to provide the secretariat for these meetings on a voluntary basis be taken up. It was also agreed to share the travel costs of the Chair and Secretariat so the costs do not fall exclusively on one region. Bill suggested an estimate is made of this cost and the amount is split across the 9 regions The DWP would then take this into account when dividing up the funding for the coming year (as in item 2 above)
6. **AOB.**
 - i. The LGA consultation was briefly discussed. Marjory will take note of whether our comments have been incorporated and she will ensure English Chairs are

kept informed of any further information to emerge from this work. **ACTION 3:**

Marjory

- ii. Shelagh mentioned the AAA campaign to end loneliness and isolation and a publication by Age UK on this subject
- iii. Russell thanked all the English Forums for our work over the last year and expressed appreciation on behalf of the DWP

7. **Date of next meeting:** to be notified