

## Future Years – Work Plan 2012 / 13 objectives 2 & 6

### Background

At the Future Years meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 it was agreed that Joanne Volpe, Paul Russell, Robert Crossland and Neil Martin would look at what action was required to take forward objectives 2 & 6 of the work plan 2012 / 13.

At a meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013 initial scoping was undertaken to outline the issues and possible ways forward. There is a degree of overlap between these objectives, but the issues and suggested proposals for discussion at the Future Years Board Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013 are set out below.

### Outcome and issues

*Outcome 2) Information is effectively communicated to wider audiences to raise awareness of good practice and the activities of Future Years*

Activities include:

- develop and maintain the website
- provide links to key documents on the website
- establish and maintain a database of local groups & contact
- Issue regular updates and information from UKAFA and Future Years to local groups.
- Maintain timely contributions to relevant newsletters
- Develop publicity material / information leaflet explaining the work of Future Years
- Distribute the leaflet to local forums

Progress:

- The website is being updated on a weekly basis with information sent to JV, this includes links to key documents if they are sent
- The following lists of key contacts are in existence
  - Previous circulation list (Melanie's) cleansed, includes 174 contacts
  - Contact list of LA Older People's Champions
  - Information and Loneliness Task Group
  - **GAP** – local groups and forums. Newsletter sent out via Sally Whittingham's contact list, only 3 responses

Age UK (Sally) has postal addresses of 44 local older people's forums in Yorkshire & Humber. We need **to decide** if we produce promotional literature to send out to these groups, perhaps with a freepost return, asking if they wish to be included.

*Outcome 6) The Voice of older people in Y&H is heard at regional, national and ministerial levels and influences policy development*

Activities include:

- mapping the 'pyramid of engagement' of FY members to show strength of the collective voice
- identify gaps
- increase engagement to ensure full representation from the region

- ensure representation on the Age Action Alliance's Loneliness and Isolation Task Group

There are two aspects of FY that need to be looked at under objective 6; the Forum board membership and the wider network of Y&H Older Peoples' groups which make up the Future Years membership, as set out in the amended constitution.

What is clear is that there are gaps at both levels in terms of the 'pyramid' of representation:

### **Forum Board**

The list below is the sub-regional coverage of the Board membership. This includes in brackets people who aren't sub-region reps, but can / do provide a sub-regional perspective, thereby helping to provide a wider picture of issues across the region.

#### **North Yorkshire & York**

North Yorkshire - Shelagh Marshall

York – George Wood & Linda Tester (is Linda a sub-regional rep?)

- This sub-region is fully covered.

#### **East Riding and the Humber**

Bridlington - Jean Wormwell

(Hull - Mary Laursen)

- There is no representation / input from the wider East Riding and North and North East Lincolnshire

#### **West Yorkshire**

Bradford - Jean Walker (& Mashud Haque although he is the BME rep)

Leeds – John Welham

(Calderdale & Kirklees – Hillary, although Age UK rep)

(Shipley - Paul Russell, although TUC rep)

(Robert Crossman – West Yorkshire, but representative of Alzheimers' Society West Yorkshire)

- There is no specific representation from Wakefield.

#### **South Yorkshire**

Sheffield – Jane Tanser & Gordon Westell

- There is no representation / input from Doncaster, Rotherham & Barnsley.

### **Issues and possible actions:**

- There are gaps in three of the sub-regions and, although we will never have full coverage / representation, we need extending this coverage. This is needed in order to provide more consistent input to UKAFA and Age Action Alliance, the top of our pyramid. This is why we have received DWP funding.
  - Clarify and fill existing vacancies, targeting the gaps identified.

- Sub-regional input from other members who have links to and can 'represent' local issues as well as their specific role, e.g. Mashud in Bradford and Paul in Shipley.
- Co-opt additional a small number of sub-regional reps in specific and targeted areas that aren't covered, e.g. other parts of South Yorkshire?
- Hold sub-regional meetings to 'tap into' sub-regional groups - see wider membership below.
- We need to review current membership – including how well the membership represent the FY priorities - and ensure that all reps are linked in and feed into the forum. We also need to look at the structure of meetings.
  - Agree a formal mechanism for reps to feed into meetings and have more emphasis on sub-regional feedback at Forum meetings – this would require all sub-regional reps to prepare & feedback on a limited number of issues related to the work plan or are key issues.
    - Brief proforma of agreed issues to complete prior to meeting.
  - Ensure that reps can attend meetings or send a deputy.
  - Hold 6 meetings a year so that there is more time at each meeting to discuss sub-regional issues, not just for the sake of more meetings.
  - More emphasis on specific items feeding back key issues from UKAFA & AAA and a shorter and more focused section on FY's admin.
  - Limit the number of information sessions & keep them more succinct / focused

### **Wider engagement with OP groups, the FY membership**

There is a need to widen the reach of FY and to build up links to with OP networks and groups as members of the wider forum. This would allow us to get input from and get information out across more of Y&H.

### **Issues and possible actions:**

- We need to raise awareness of FY and make membership more attractive to OP groups. What we offer needs to be different to that which is already available locally. Much of this is covered by outcome 2 and includes newsletters, information on the website, but to consider:
  - AGM – focused on a specific issue & feedback on what FY is doing and how they can get involved. The first one could be a FY 're-launch'.
  - Sally Whittingham to email all contacts on the Age UK regional list to:
    - inform them of FY
    - ask what they would like to get from FY e.g. a newsletter
    - ask them to become FY members / be added to our distribution list
    - ask for other groups that might be interested in joining FY
  - Hold a quarterly meeting in one of the sub-regions every quarter - 1 in each sub-region over a year and in addition to the FY Board meetings. They could:

- Be hosted by a local organisation – we have the budget to pay for it to be arranged and hosted
- Share information and focus on a key issue
- An initial meeting could include how we better engage on our priorities, but what they would like from FY, that is different to that provided locally