

Notes from:	UK Advisory Forum on Ageing 6 March 2013
Apologies:	Steve McIntosh, Carers UK Alan Beazley, Employers Network for Equality & Inclusion (ENEI) Baroness Sally Greengross, Equality & Human Rights Commission Stephen McNair, National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) Chris Ball, The Age and Employment Network (TAEN)
Speakers:	Helen Dimmock, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) Ed Moses, Department of Health (DH) Caroline Bernard, National Development Team for <i>inclusion</i> (NDTi) Kasia Kurowska, Years Ahead Bill Ions, Years Ahead Joan Knox, Years Ahead Mark Greenfield, Years Ahead
Secretariat:	Gwen Wolf, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) Ken Cooper, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP)
Meeting Support:	John Baker, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) Russell Taylor, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) Simon Wilkinson, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) Jonathan Bailey, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) Lisa Taylor, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP)

Welcome, Introductions and Update Gwen Wolf, DWP
<p>Gwen welcomed everyone and advised the meeting that the Minister of State for Care & Support, had sent his apologies as he would be unable to attend the meeting due to the pressure of Parliamentary business. Justin Russell was also unable to attend the meeting for the morning but would resume the Chair for the afternoon.</p> <p>Gwen took the opportunity to introduce to the meeting: Kevan Larkin, the new Chair and UKAFA representative from the North West Forum; Peter Dale, the Chair designate in the South East; Jean Gaston-Parry, the future UKAFA representative from the South East Forum; Andrew Latto, Head of the Redefining Retirement & Pensioner Welfare Division, DWP.</p> <p>Finally Gwen thanked Ruth Rose for her commitment to UKAFA, from the first meeting; her active role in discussions and her contributions to the development of the Forum.</p>

UKAFA Review Helen Dimmock, DWP

Helen reminded members that at the last meeting in November 2012 the session on the UKAFA Review had been cut short, and it had only been possible to identify a few actions to take forward. Helen then gave members a short presentation which included an update on the progress made to date followed by a number of issues for members to discuss.

A copy of this presentation is attached with these notes; and the feedback from members' discussions is included at Annex A.

Members are reminded to respond to Helen as follows:

- **To give feedback on the Secretariat services they most value by 26 April 2013; and**
- **To advise if they would be interested in helping to develop a guide for members by 19 April 2013.**

Care & Support Update Ed Moses, DH

Ed Moses outlined some of the key recent developments in health and social care:

Funding Reform

Subject to legislation, there will be a cap on care costs of £72,000 from 2016 and an increase in the means test threshold in residential care from £23,250 to £118,000. People will remain responsible for their general living costs. No one will have to sell their home in their lifetime to pay for residential care. And many people will have to pay nothing for their care and support needs. There will be a national minimum eligibility threshold to make access to care more consistent across the country.

Dementia

Dementia is a key area of focus for the Prime Minister and Ministers, with the challenge for a million Dementia Friends.

Digital challenge

In January this year the Secretary of State for Health announced a digital challenge to health services to go paperless by 2018.

The Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust – Report of Public Inquiry

Ministers were considering the report and would respond by the end of March (The Government has since published *Patients first and foremost: The initial Government*

Response to the Report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry)

Ed then responded to a number of questions from members and agreed to feed back their views to policy colleagues in the Department of Health.

DWP response to Question

DWP has provided the following response to a question on the “bedroom tax”:

The social housing sector size criteria when it is introduced will apply to those of working age only. At the point that the size criteria is introduced in April 2013, 'working age' for a couple will apply where *both* the claimant and partner are under the Pension Credit qualifying age (which is linked to state pension age for women).

Those who have reached the qualifying age for state pension credit will not be affected by the reductions being introduced. The qualifying age for Pension Credit, for both men and women, is linked to women’s State Pension age.

However, following the introduction of Universal Credit, from a date yet to be decided, couples where one member is under the qualifying age for Pension Credit will have to claim Universal Credit, rather than Pension Credit. As the under occupation measure will apply within the housing element of Universal Credit, the measure will therefore also apply to new claims from couples where one member of the couple is under Pension Credit qualifying age. Couples who are already receiving Pension Credit before this date will continue to receive Pension Credit and therefore be exempt from the size criteria unless their circumstances change and they are no longer entitled to Pension Credit.

Widening Choices for Older People with High Support Needs Caroline Bernard, NDTi

Caroline gave a presentation outlining research funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation as part of their five year A Better Life Programme, and undertaken by NDTi and Community Catalysts. This research is now the focus of an ongoing dissemination programme and Caroline asked members to discuss options for progressing this. The feedback from these discussions is attached at Annex B.

A summary of and the full report on Widening Choices for Older People with High Support Needs are available here: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/widening-choices-high-support-needs>

A copy of Caroline's presentation is attached with these notes.

Groups interested in an organising an NDTi workshop on Widening Choices for Older People with High Support Needs should contact:
caroline.bernard@ndti.org.uk

Over 65s Material Deprivation Indicator Kasia Kurowska, Years Ahead Steve Webb, Minister for Pensions

Norman Jemison introduced Kasia Kurowska to the meeting and outlined how Years Ahead had decided to undertake this work on material deprivation. Kasia talked the meeting through a presentation outlining the research Years Ahead had undertaken in the North East, the outcomes from that and the recommendations being made to Government as a result.

The Minister for Pensions thanked Kasia for the presentation and welcomed the work that Years Ahead had done to take forward this concept. The Minister is firmly of the view that material deprivation is a useful indicator as it gives an emotional charge to an otherwise fairly anaemic measure of incomes relative to the average. And he confirmed that DWP would be responding formally to the Years Ahead report and that he wasn't wedded to the existing title; while also noting that there was no definitive recommendation on what it should change to.

The Minister felt that there was a balance to be struck between making changes to the indicators, e.g. including a measure of fuel poverty, to ensure that they remain relevant and maintaining a consistent data set which will be comparable over a number of years. He also commented that the original indicators were created from discussions with older people themselves.

The Minister explained that the sample size, taken from the Family Resources Survey, is too small to allow for a regional breakdown; but if Years Ahead or others were able to get financial backing for a more in-depth, locally focused phone survey, for instance, DWP would be able to provide some technical advice on the methodology. Depending on the scale of the survey and other factors, this might then allow us to see up-to-date, sub-regional differences in material deprivation and the level of consistency with DWP data. And the Minister recognised, as the Years Ahead report had noted, with material deprivation, as opposed to pure low income, a lot of the solutions could be at a community level.

The Minister then joined the meeting in table discussions on how this work might be further progressed; a note of the feedback from these discussions is attached as Annex C.

A copy of the Years Ahead presentation and the Years Ahead Task Group Report on Pensioner Material Deprivation are attached with these notes.

The DWP research reports, Understanding the relationship between pensioner poverty and material deprivation and Understanding material deprivation among older people, and the DWP research summary, Understanding pensioner poverty and material deprivation – a synthesis of findings, are available here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/ihr_abstracts/ihr_014.asp

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/rr_abstracts/rra_827.asp

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/summ_index_2013_2014.asp

Close & Future Meetings Justin Russell, DWP

Justin thanked all those present for their contribution throughout the day, and reminded members to complete the feedback forms included as the final page in the delegate pack.

Justin also advised members that at the next meeting there would be agenda items on both **Fuel Poverty** and **Phase 3 of the Welsh Government's Older Peoples' Strategy**.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 12 June 2013**; and will be held at EEF Broadway House Conference Centre, Broadway House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NQ. The meeting will start at 10.45, with refreshments available from 10.30.

Further UK Advisory Forum on Ageing meeting dates for 2013 are:

- **Wednesday 25 September 2013**; and
- **Tuesday 26 November 2013**.

The venue for both of these meetings will be: the Council Chamber, EEF Broadway House Conference Centre, Broadway House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NQ (<http://www.eefvenues.co.uk/conference-venues/london/location.aspx>)

Annex A

UKAFA Review: Feedback from table discussions

Discussion: Members to work together between meetings and to drive outcomes for UKAFA – What should members be doing to make this happen? What can the secretariat do to support this?

- For forums to be active they need time to prepare for discussions and to react to emerging issues.
- Organisations need to come prepared with the background information from their organisations.
- Important to maintain working within regions as there are specific issues.
- Should UKAFA be considering the top three thematic issues or looking at all like the Alliance? And could these issues be shared around the forums to create some “competition”.
- Don’t want cumbersome communications between regions. Exchange details between the different groups.
- Need to concentrate sharing information on the positives.
- Need leads to drive groups forward.
- If we end up with common negatives then we should be feeding it back to UKAFA as a collective problem.

Discussion: Members of UKAFA should take the lead on subject areas, e.g. housing, digital inclusion, loneliness and isolation, etc. – How might this work? What changes might this approach deliver? Might this approach have links with the work of the Age Action Alliance?

- Need to use expertise to drive issues forward but also need everyone’s input - Membership profiles will identify what individuals have to offer.
- UKAFA needs to call on the expertise of the Alliance.
- Maximise what happens at regional level for UKAFA.
- Clarify the outcomes being looked for at UKAFA meetings.
- What are the areas that forums want to address/challenge. Important each organisation feeds into Gwen what they want to consider, and share these with the Alliance.
- Housekeeping issues – huge importance attached to the profiles so that we know what skills we have. Circulate template as a draft for comment. If the Minister has come to talk about a subject; make sure UKAFA has feedback on what has happened as a result.
- If we have a map of what skills are in UKAFA then we could link them into the Alliance.
- New bodies such as Health and Wellbeing boards – should we be looking at these issues. Plenty of things that we could discuss. Key is considering the timeliness of discussion. Could we organise a post-it note vote over lunch on subjects for discussion?

Discussion: Develop a communications strategy for UKAFA as it is not easy to find information – Who would be the target audience? Government departments? Older people? General Population? And why? What would be

the main purpose? To raise general awareness? To market UKAFA to a wider audience? To extend the level of engagement? Or?

- Audiences: general public - to make them aware that it exists and they can feed into it; media - to provide positive image of older people; government - House of Lords, committees, opposition parties.
- Internal communication within the forum needs to improve.
- Grass roots voice into the forum to gather and feed in.
- Dedicated communications officer for the forum.
- Why should people listen to this forum? Reps are at the top of the pyramid of information. Real entry point to a lot of information. Lot of expertise gathered in one place. Sell this to government departments as a resource for them to use.
- Enable grass roots people to share experiences and knowledge of own particular areas and enable all levels of government to listen to service users early in their policy development. Want them not to have assumptions about older people, to recognise the talent of older people and to use it.
- Want to see some consistency in what we report back and know that is difficult in the areas we represent because of the diversity of the areas. How do we collect the information about our own localities? How do we bring regional information up to government?
- Consulting/engagement mean entirely different things. Engagement is using older peoples' talents in making policy with you.
- Do we need a strategy? Who's going to write it?

List of items for future discussion in preference order:

- 4 votes: Fuel Poverty/Winter Fuel Payments (as previously advised this will be on the agenda in June 2013);
- 3 votes: Digital Inclusion, including familiarity with social media
Finance, including pensioner poverty, insurance, equity release, etc.
- 2 votes: State Pension Reform
Draft Care & Support Bill
Loneliness & Isolation
Unemployment and employment opportunities for people over 50
- 1 vote: Health & Wellbeing Boards
Age Discrimination
Safety & Wellbeing
Better support for Carers
Mental Health (still the "Cinderella" service)
Transport in rural areas
Intergenerational events
Extra costs of living alone, which happens more with older people
Means testing for benefits and services, particularly in relation to the impact of VAT
Early intervention as a core prevention tool
End of life care
Food poverty
Telecare/use of ICT in care
Provision and availability of Extra Care Housing

Annex B

Widening Choices for Older People with High Support Needs: Feedback from table discussions

- First task is to identify those individuals with high support needs.
- Identify the success stories and develop a body of knowledge which sets out the practical benefits to both parties.
- Identify the solutions and decide what potentially is appropriate for the community and the individual.
- Recognise that these informal arrangements cannot be a substitute for basic service provision. Part of the drive behind these types of initiatives is the need for local authorities to make savings.
- These arrangements tend to happen and are unlikely to be part of a pre-determined strategy.
- Examples already exist within communities as part of asset based community development - empowering people rather than imposing a solution.
- Seed funding will enable this - small levels of funding can produce significant results.
- Potential downside is that informal arrangements can increase the potential for abuse of the individual.
- On attitudes - we all have a responsibility to change attitudes and to promote a can do approach in later life.
- With mutuality there should be a role here for community organisers to act as facilitators and catalysts to support local co –produced solutions that promote the fact that **everyone** has something to contribute. Assets not Deficits

Annex C

Material Deprivation: Feedback from table discussions

How to use the information?/Who would want to use the information?

- Given that local authorities can now design their own Council Tax Benefit schemes, they should be interested in the information that a local survey could provide. Could be used by them to re-prioritise, but also reinforce existing priorities.
- Should make local authorities even more democratically accountable – will help inform different models of service delivery.
- Not just local authorities that would be interested – Age UK, Financial Services companies, DWP, Service Providers – all might want to use the information.

How to roll out?

- Needs to be national in order to achieve the comparators.
- Deliver as part of a national partnership.
- An opportunity for the English Forums on Ageing to get involved (and raise their profile).
- Very useful to DWP and other government departments to have local operators doing such work.
- Feeding into a local survey will help to understand the national messages that are coming out.