

Notes from:	UK Advisory Forum on Ageing 21 November 2012
Speakers:	<p>Sue Adams, Chief Executive, Care and Repair, England Domini Gunn-Peim, Director of Health & Well Being, Chartered Institute of Housing Roger Wilshaw, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Tony Watts, South West Forum on Ageing Jackie Allen, South West Forum on Ageing Evan Morris, Head of Community Safety, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service Helen Dimmock, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP)</p>
Secretariat:	<p>Gwen Wolf, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) Ken Cooper, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP)</p>
Meeting Support:	<p>Helen Dimmock, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) Simon Wilkinson, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) Andrea Gillard, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) John Baker, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP)</p>

Welcome, Introductions and Update Justin Russell DWP
<p>Justin welcomed everyone to the meeting and took the opportunity to introduce two new representatives, Jackie Allen from the South West and Phyllis Preece from Wales, and those who were attending as observers.</p> <p>Justin also advised members that the notes from the meeting on 12 September were not yet available although the content of the discussions at that meeting had been presented to the Age Action Alliance working group on Attitudes to Age at their meeting in October. Among the early actions identified were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Antonia Mochan would be trialling a half-day workshop on building media engagement skills with the North East Forum; ➤ Emily Georghiou and Tony Watts from the South West Forum would be working with Pat Healy on reporting age. <p>The working group will be reporting back to UKAFA during 2013.</p>

Update & Discussion
Minister for Pensions, Steve Webb

The Minister for Pensions gave members an update on progress with Pension Reform and support for older workers:

- The Coalition has committed to the "triple lock" for the duration of this Parliament and the uprating statement is due in December. Uprating is always based on September inflation figures, regardless of whether this coincides with a point of high inflation (like last year) or is lower than other months.
- The Single Tier and State Pension age white papers have been combined. The paper is in an advanced stage; is being considered by other departments to ensure cross-government agreement and is in a 'queue' of papers for publication.
- Those who will "lose-out" as a result of the changes are primarily in 3 groups: de minimis losers, Savings Credit losers and Additional Pension losers.
- A decision on indexation has not yet been finalised, but it is fairly safe to assume that we will not go back to price inflation.
- There are two options for "Contracting out": either expunge it from an individual's National Insurance Contribution record, or leave it there; the white paper will offer a compromise between the two.
- State Pension outcomes are increasing for recent cohorts, as the State Earnings-related Pension Scheme (SERPS) has existed for a greater proportion of their working lives (for those retiring today, average figures are £160 for men and £130 for women).
- The UK is not ahead of the curve in terms of State Pension age increases; Croatia has set a timetable for 73 years of age, and Denmark for 75.
- In the UK, increases in longevity will be shared between working life and retirement.

The Minister also explained the uplift for women and carers in broad terms and explained the way the system will benefit the self-employed.

With regard to Automatic-Enrolment, the Minister for Pensions added:

- Automatic-Enrolment is linked to the tax threshold and contributions are being phased in gradually;
- For those earning £10,000pa and contributing 1% in initial stages - they will be paying in £1 a week
- Very few investments give the same return as Automatic-Enrolment – the 4% you pay in becomes 8% with employer contributions and tax relief.

Turning to Extending Working Lives the Minister advised:

- The unemployment rate among 50-64 year olds is lower than for other age groups, e.g. under 24s, for whom it is more than one in six.
- However, inactivity rates, at three in ten of 50-64 year olds, are higher than for any other cohort.
- Many become inactive as a result of health problems - prevention is better than cure and the Sickness Absence Review which is due to be published soon

will help to deliver solutions. (See <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform/sickness-absence-review/>)

- A real concern is that those who are inactive in this period of life are at greater risk of poverty as they get older.

Members raised a numbers of questions with the Minister, to which he responded:

- The abolition of the Default Retirement Age was a start in challenging attitudes to older workers. Attitudes will really change when men's State Pension age hits 66; in addition demographic change means that employers will have to harness the skills of older workers.
- Agreed that the 'lump of labour' theory (this theory suggests that older people, when they choose to work for longer, take jobs that would otherwise be filled by younger people) has been widely discredited.
- Lone parents aren't expected to look for work until their youngest child is 3 years old.
- There are more people in work in the UK than ever before; and in response to the view that many of these weren't "proper, full-time" jobs, the Minister emphasised the need to distinguish between part-time work and casual employment without any job security.
- The Coalition recognises the contributions that older people make to wider society, e.g. through Grandparents' Credits.
- Universal pensioner benefits will remain universal for the duration of this parliament.
- DWP has made some £12bn of savings, all of which have come from working age.

Hospital 2 Home – an example of health, care and housing integration in action
Sue Adams, Care & Repair England
Domini Gunn-Peim, Chartered Institute of Housing
Roger Wilshaw, DCLG

Members had been provided with a link to the Hospital 2 Home resource pack in advance of the meeting and some examples had been included in the delegate pack for the day. The Hospital 2 Home resource is designed to make it easier for health and social care professionals involved in hospital discharge to support older patients in returning home safely after a hospital stay and reduce the risk of readmission to hospital. The Hospital2Home resource pack is available here:
http://housinglin.org.uk/hospital2home_pack/

Roger introduced the discussion, reminding members of his discussions with them in November 2011, and highlighting the launch of the Government's Housing Strategy and the report of the All Party Parliamentary Group (Housing & Care) Inquiry "Living

Well at Home”.

Sue reinforced the potential role of Health and Wellbeing Boards in shaping a range of local plans and services, including better housing for older people; and the importance of the prompt availability of housing related services in hospitals to enable older people to return to living independently and well at home.

Domini outlined the development of the resource pack and the recognition that providers need to be smart and sharp about the design and delivery of services to older people.

Sue and Domini offered to speak in more detail at meetings of the English Forums on Ageing; any forum wishing to pursue this offer should contact Sue (info@careandrepair-england.org.uk) or Domini (domini.gunn@cih.org) directly.

In discussion with members the following points were highlighted:

- The importance of making a fundamental shift in the way services are planned and commissioned across health, social care and housing.
- A need for a radical review of training for hospital and social care staff to improve their understanding of the importance and value of partnership working and wider considerations about patients, including their housing.
- The role for local older people’s forums in lobbying key members of Health and Wellbeing Boards about local housing services; including meeting with their Director of Public Health.

Early Priorities Minister of State for Care & Support, Norman Lamb

The Minister of State for Care Services expressed his interest and enthusiasm in attending his first UKAFA meeting, and added that although he clearly had a number of challenges ahead, he first wanted to first reiterate the message from the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, that older people are a top priority for Government. Adding that if we can provide health and care services that work better for older people, we can get this right for everyone.

The Minister went on to describe the Government’s priorities for improving care and support for older people. The Minister explained that while more people living longer is of course a very positive thing we need to recognise that this can mean more people needing health and care services and the health and care system needs to change to meet those needs.

The Minister described the need for a shift in the model of care; moving beyond a

focus on institutions such as hospitals to an integrated system organised around the needs of people with a fundamental shift towards prevention and care.

The Minister gave members an update on progress with social care reform. The draft Bill, the biggest reform of social care legislation in 60 years, has been published; and there has been clause by clause feedback on the draft Bill. The Bill sets out a move from a paternalistic model to a system designed around the needs of individuals and helping carers also get the support they need.

Recognising members concerns over funding reform and anxieties about Dilnot, the Minister reassured the meeting that the Department of Health was working hard in conjunction with the Treasury and stakeholders to see how to implement funding reform that is in line with the Dilnot recommendations.

The Minister explained that he wanted to commend to members, as part of the government's dementia challenge; the launch of the call to have 1 million "Dementia friends" by 2015. Dementia is one of the biggest health and care challenges of the 21st Century, but if everyone plays their part it will make everyday life in our communities better for those with dementia. Further information on the Dementia Challenge is available at: <http://dementiachallenge.dh.gov.uk/>

Finally, the Minister said that he is totally committed to seeing improvements in mental healthcare; the first Mandate between the Government and the NHS Commissioning Board gives mental health a greater priority than it has had previously. Further information on the Mandate is available at: <http://mandate.dh.gov.uk/>

Members raised a number of questions with the Minister to which he responded:

- There are things that could be done to prevent conditions like diabetes deteriorating and the Minister is committed to seeing improvements in prevention as well as recognising the importance of action to promote healthy lifestyles, such as in Dorset and other areas. There is a strong role for employers to promote good health among their workforce.
- Asked that Dot Gibson provide a copy of the NPC Ethical Care Charter; and that Evan Morris forward further information on the role Fire & Rescue Services can play.

**Engaging with Older People in the South West
Tony Watts & Jackie Allen, South West Regional Forum**

Tony briefly outlined the process the South West Forum had used to seek the views of older people in the South West before showing the short video recording those

views. The video is available to view at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JF8CjvHtT0>

A video of the South West conference event (and the aftermath) is also available at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bD0upmfG93g>

Jackie gave a presentation on the Dorset Association of Senior Forums and the successful partnership working of Dorset POPPs. A copy of this presentation is available with these notes.

The subsequent discussion focused on transport issues and included reference to the following:

- A project in the Milton Keynes area offering older people flat rate fares during peak travel times.
- The availability of local authority community transport vehicles for use by community and voluntary groups with volunteer drivers, when they are not in use by the local authority.
- The opportunity for older people to use their bus pass to book travel on school bus services.
- The recent submission made by the Older People's Commissioner for Wales to the Inquiry into Integrated Transport in Wales. A copy is available at: [http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/en/news/news/12-11-02/Submission to the Inquiry into Integrated Transport.aspx](http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/en/news/news/12-11-02/Submission%20to%20the%20Inquiry%20into%20Integrated%20Transport.aspx)

Tony suggested members use AGenda to spread these and other good ideas, and to let others know what happens where you live.

<http://www.agenda-efa.org.uk/site/downloads/>

Improving Outcomes for Older People Evan Morris, Chief Fire Officers Association

Evan gave a presentation on implementing the Fire and Rescue Service's (FRS) national older persons strategy, Ageing Safely – Protecting an Ageing Population from the Risk of Fire in the Home. This strategy was first discussed at UKAFA in February 2011 and subsequently at several of the English Forums on Ageing.

A copy of the presentation is attached with these notes.

Responding to members questions Evan advised that:

- FRS provide support/training for care service providers to enable them to recognise and understand fire risks, and to ensure that FRS are aware of both general and specific needs.

- Changes to FRS services, e.g. fire station closure, are not undertaken without detailed planning to ensure operational service and safety are not compromised. It is important to recognise that improved process will deliver an improved service at less cost.
- CFOA is a member of the Dementia Challenge champion group on creating dementia friendly communities.

UKAFA Review Helen Dimmock, DWP

Helen gave a presentation summarising the outcomes and recommendations from the review of UKAFA carried out during the summer months. Unfortunately, due to delays earlier in the day, there was insufficient time to discuss this item, but Helen invited members to forward any views/comments by e-mail and advised that the item would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

A copy of the presentation is attached with these notes.

Close & Future Meetings Elaine Squires, DWP

Elaine 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.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 6 March 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 12 June 2013;
- Wednesday 25 September 2013; and
- Tuesday 26 November 2013.

The venue for all 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>)