

UKAFA 18 March 2015

UKAFA Review session

In your syndicate groups, please consider the questions below, note down key points and nominate a spokesperson to feed-back following discussion.

To help focus your discussion, the findings of the last formal review of UKAFA, which took place in November 2012, are included in Annex A attached, together with the original recommendations from the John Elbourne review, and the commitments made in the government response at Annex B.

Background to UKAFA and considerations for the future

Elbourne's principle recommendation to Government in his 2008 report, was to establish a UK Advisory Forum for Older People, chaired or co-chaired by the government Minister for older people, supported by regional advisory forums.

The Government response to the report, published the following year, committed to supporting a UKAFA that would 'build the capacity for effective dialogue at regional and local level', and expressed hope that a 'strong, diverse and inclusive' framework would be created for engaging older people at all levels. This 'empowering engagement' was to ensure a stronger voice for older people in Government.

As we reach the end of the current Parliament, this session aims to focus on UKAFA's achievements to date, discuss areas for improvement, and consider future direction.

Questions for Consideration

- 1 Measuring against the original recommendations in Annex B, in what areas has UKAFA met its original aims? Are there any aims that have not been met?**
- 2 What are the key tangible successes?**
- 3 What would make UKAFA more effective?**
- 4 What could be the focus of future meetings?**

Annex A UKAFA 2012 Review

A formal review of UKAFA was carried out in November 2012. Members, policy officials and stakeholders completed a questionnaire and the findings are summarised in the table below. The RED group has also discussed and identified strengths on an on-going basis, some of which are represented here.

UKAFA Strengths Identified	Areas for Improvement
Increases understanding of policy process, keeps orgs informed and responds over time to older people issues	Need to produce tangible outcomes
Opportunity to question Ministers As well as opportunity to influence Ministers and policy development from an early stage.	Be more diverse and intergenerational
Identifying solutions, sharing and promoting good practice	Demonstrate joined up government through involvement of other departments.
Networking, recognising links between organisations and exploiting opportunities to work together	Communicate more effectively internally and externally
Recognise and represent the diversity of older people and their communities in the UK and how individuals age well, or not, within their environment	
Recommendations	Progress

<p>UKAFA members to lead on subject area e.g. housing, digital inclusion, loneliness and isolation.</p>	<p>volunteers not yet identified to lead on a subject area.</p>
<p>UKAFA should develop a reporting back process for orgs and officials engaging with UKAFA</p>	<p>System introduced by Gwen but contributions from members has been limited.</p>
<p>Secretariat to develop proposals to expand UKAFA membership to be more diverse/intergenerational/ inclusive of other government departments. –</p>	<p>Expanded to include other government departments who have led some sessions but no other changes to membership have been made to date.</p>
<p>Secretariat to build member' profiles' to raise UKAFA profile</p>	<p>Profiles were requested from members but response was limited.</p>

Annex B

The Elbourne Review and the Government Response

The key principles of the John Elbourne Review (2008) were:

- To ensure that the voices of older people can influence government at a national, regional and local level in order to develop policies, and services that meet their needs.
- To ensure that the voices of older people can be clearly heard.
- To ensure that a diversity of views can be heard.
- To build on what is already working.
- To ensure that central government funding provides good value for money.

The key commitments of the Government's response 'Empowering engagement: a stronger voice for older people' (2009) were:

- To engage older people and government at all levels, to address the changing nature of later life in an ageing society.
- To work with other wider developments to support and encourage local authorities to develop effective engagement.
- To help spread good practice.

The seven recommendations of the John Elbourne Review	The commitments set out in the government response to the review 'Empowering engagement: a stronger voice for older people'
Recommendation 1 Establish a UK Advisory Forum for older people chaired or co-chaired by the lead government Minister for older people supported by regional advisory forums.	We will develop a UK Advisory Forum on Ageing to advise on cross-Government policy development for older people with a particular focus on the implementation of the Government's updated <i>Opportunity Age</i> strategy
Recommendation 2 Secretariat services for the UK Advisory Forum be provided by government officials.	We will put in place a secretariat to support the Advisory Forum by 1 April 2009; Set up processes to ensure the views of older people at a local level are systematically captured to inform Government at all levels.

<p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>Enhance the role of Government Offices in supporting and developing engagement with older people, supported by the UK Advisory Forum secretariat.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>Address relevant findings from the Audit Commission's Report '<i>Don't Stop Me Now</i>', by Regional Forums supporting their respective local authorities to develop effective engagement strategies, to ensure a true diversity of older people's voices are heard</p>	<p>Put in place regional coordinators to strengthen the network of local authority forums and to champion older people;</p> <p>work with local government to enhance awareness and understanding of the new duties contained in the forthcoming Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill and Equalities Bill.</p> <p>work with local government to enhance awareness and understanding of .the new duties contained in the forthcoming Equalities Bill;</p> <p>provide guidelines for the strategic engagement of older people for the benefit of local authorities and other organisations;</p> <p>work with Regional Empowerment Partnerships.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>Older people's forums around the UK, including Older People's Advisory Groups (OPAGs), should be supported and built upon.</p>	<p>We will provide funding from April 2009 to directly support OPAGs and other forums .through enhanced regional structures;</p> <p>establish or develop Regional Forums on Ageing in each region;.</p> <p>provide a structure so that local and regional forums feed into and inform the UK Advisory Forum on Ageing;</p> <p>develop communication channels to support discussion between all forums and the sharing of notable practice;</p> <p>develop a central register of the Forums in regions and local authority areas</p> <p>engage all Regional Ministers with their regional forums;</p>

<p>Recommendation 6</p> <p>Better Government for Older People (BGOP) is funded by DWP at current levels until the end of March 2009.</p>	<p>We will support BGOP to become an independent entity..</p>
<p>Recommendation 7</p> <p>The main funding for these proposals should come from DWP's current funding for older people's engagement.</p>	

Additional detail from the Elbourne Review

Recommendation 1 Establish a UK Advisory Forum for Older People chaired or co-chaired by the lead Government Minister for Older People supported by regional advisory forums:

- My proposal would raise the profile of older people's issues by providing leadership at the highest level with the structure and means to capture views in an organised way
- I envisage the UK Advisory Forum acting as a sounding board for Ministers and to provide advice on older people's issues; working with Ministers to advise on consultation and engagement with older people; to set up and govern sub-group activity for one off tasks.
- I envisage the regional advisory groups would draw their members from local older people's forums and groups.
- I propose membership of the UK Advisory Forum should include: Ministers from key Government departments (DWP, DH, DCLG); representatives from older people's groups; age sector and related organisations; service delivery organisations; devolved administrations; and Local Government Association.

Additional detail from the Government response on the remit of a UK Advisory Forum:

The remit of the Forum will include a clear focus on advising Government on improving the wellbeing of older people and addressing the opportunities and challenges of an ageing society. This should include:

- Reviewing progress on improving independence and well-being in later life.

- Creating an age friendly society – doing more to tackle stereotypes about old age, to change attitudes and to make sure that services are well designed and accessible to people of any age.
- Encouraging better preparation for later life – both through planning for the future financially and encouraging people to think much earlier about what they might want and need as they grow older so that they can plan and prepare at a much earlier stage.
- Helping people to live well in later life – by creating opportunities for people to remain active in society throughout their life. This might be by continuing to work, through volunteering or remaining active in their community or within their family.
- Providing stronger protection and support – by doing more to join up services, promote the take-up of benefits and make sure people can get support and help from those they trust when and how they need it.