

The Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group on Older People, Age and Ageing

Minutes

19th February 2014

1. Present

Sandra White MSP, Nanette Milne MSP, Hannah Lister(Age Scotland)Paul Teverson(McCarthy and Stone), Steve Wiseman(McCarthy and Stone), Katherine Brookfield(University of Edinburgh), Murial Mowat(Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance), Ally Floherty(Intern for Sandra White MSP), Anne Gallacher(Luminate), Katrina Coutts(Age Scotland), Alister Steele(Castle Rock Edinvar), Robert Thomson (Care and Repair Scotland), Alex Stewart(Tax Help for Older People), Glenda Watt(Scottish Older People's Assembly), Philippa Faulkner(HIV Scotland), Aidan Collins(HIV Scotland), Rob Mackie(Pagoda PR), Greg McCracken(Age Scotland), Brid Cullen(SNFOV), Yvonne Coull(National Forum on Ageing), Andrew Lindsay(Big Lottery Fund), Mike Liddle(Scottish Govt, RCOP)

2. Minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed.

3. Presentation by Steve Wiseman and Paul Teverson(McCarthy and Stone)

Presentation attached

Overview-

McCarthy and Stone started by putting some of the issues into perspective with figures showing that while people over 65 account for 17 per cent of the population (890,000 people) there are just 36,000 retirement homes in Scotland.

As this was a parliamentary meeting, with MSPs present, McCarthy & Stone used the opportunity to show their support for the Scottish Government's proposed changes in Scottish Planning Policy, which they believe, amongst other things, encourages authorities to prepare policies to support older people's housing and allocate sites for them to be built. They also welcomed the Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 which aims to give people more choice and control, should they wish, in planning the care they receive.

Despite positive moves within planning policy however, the team from McCarthy & Stone did highlight the current lack of competition they have in the private retirement

home market in Scotland. Perhaps surprisingly to some in the audience, they stressed how they would welcome other companies entering into this market in the future.

4. Presentation by Alister Steele, Castle Rock Edinvar

Presentation attached

Overview-

Alister Steele, from Castle Rock Edinvar, Scottish charity and registered social landlord, who own and manage 7000 properties. With more than 2,000 of these properties being occupied by 'older' customers, they have appointed a Head of Older People's Services. Alister spoke of the community approach to their housing, including engagement with the older people themselves.

5. Question and Answer session

Following the presentations the issue of age restrictions was discussed. McCarthy & Stone currently markets its retirement living to people aged 60 and over and its assisted living units to those aged 70 and over. A representative of HIV Scotland highlighted the fact that more than 50 per cent of people with HIV in the UK will be aged 50 or over by next year. The question was therefore asked about whether age restrictions on private older people's housing were the right way to go, given that some younger older people may have needs that mean they want to look at such options at an earlier age.

A question around the size of the housing association waiting list was posed to Alister Steele. He said that although less housing association homes were being built now than in the past, local authorities were actually starting to build homes themselves again so the supply is about the same as in recent years, although there is still a shortage.

Glenda Watt then asked about what the purpose of the CPG was in terms of taking points raised at the meeting forward. Nanette suggested that the terms and a remit of a CPG should be looked in to. Hannah will look into this.

5. Future Meetings

Future meetings of the CPG will be held on-

Thurs 24th April 2014, Committee Room 1, 1pm-2pm- Ending Loneliness and Isolation