

CPG on Older People , Age and Ageing Minutes 06th February 2013

1. Present.

Sandra White MSP, Nanette Milne MSP, Callum Chomczuk (Age Scotland), Julia Braun (Action on Hearing Loss) Chloe Swift (RCN), Alex Stewart (Tax Help for Older People), Elizabeth Baikie (DCP Scotland) Joanna Se New (Home Instead) Donald Jarvie (Scotland's Future Forum) Shirley Heeps (Fife Elderly Forum) Christine Ferns (Audit Scotland) Steve Hanlon (Audit Scotland) Vincent Finny (Scottish Independent Advocacy Association) Helen Galliard (NHS Lothian) Alan Spink (National Federation of Occupation Pensions) Paula Fraser (NHS Lothian) John Legge (RNIB) Peter McColl (WRVS).

Apologies noted from the following: Alison McInnes MSP, Elaine Murray MSP, Brid Cullen, Maureen O' Neil, Andrew Senew, Iain Brotchie, Cath Logan, Joan Turner, Pat Scrutton.

2. Minutes from last meeting.

- Agreed.
- Sandra noted that she had previously met with McCarthy and Stone and suggested that it would be good to have a future session that explores older people's housing.
- Sandra announced that Callum Chomczuk would be stepping down as Secretary and Treasurer of the CPG as he is leaving employment of Age Scotland for a new job in public affairs. The convenor asked for volunteers to take on these responsibilities.

3. Teri Devine from Action on Hearing Loss and John Legge from RNIB (see PowerPoint)

- TD explained the context of hearing loss in Scotland with 1/6 of Scots having hearing loss issue and that over 500,000 older people are included in this figure. She commented that the Scottish Government sensory strategy consultation would likely be published next month.
- JL explained that there are 1.8m eye tests every year in Scotland.
- JL explained how sight loss can often be hidden because of dementia, strokes, learning disability and falls and how the BME community is particularly prone to having failing sight. He also noted how care home staff will often mistake failing eyesight for cognitive decline.
- JL added how those with failing eyesight has additional costs such as buying a talking microwave which would cost £250 compared with £50 for a traditional model.
- TD discussed the sensory projects that RNIB and Action on Hearing Loss are doing together
 - In Glasgow they have re-tubed 1,300 hearing aids in 6 months.
 - RNIB provides Visual Support Workers who support those who have been given the news that they are losing their sight.
 - RNIB and Action on Hearing Loss are working with Crossreach, Age Scotland and Alzheimer's Scotland on a project that runs until April where environmental assessment are followed up and sensory training is provided to health and care staff.

4. General discussion

- Elizabeth Baikie asked about the role of psychological therapy and the need to train people in the use of BSL. JL felt there was a need for sensory champions.
- TD responded to a question saying that unfortunately there is not a routine screening of ear-wax build up.
- Callum Chomczuk asked about what outcomes were expected from strategy and how much money would be attached to it. JL responded that it would examine the issues of

awareness and £1m would be attached to it, but that this in itself was not a significant amount of money.

- Alex Stewart asked how do we overcome the issue of people registering themselves as sensory impaired so that they can get (a) the support they need and (b) passported benefits. JL responded that unfortunately many don't enter the system until they "crash".
- Chloe Swift asked how could nurses respond to the calls for helping those with sensory impairments and JL responded that the University of Dundee has created a training booklet for what health practitioners should do.
- Elizabeth Baikie added that signage in hospitals must be improved for those with visual impairment. JL agreed and commented that when the doors and walls are the same colour this creates a problem for many people
- JL suggested two actions for the CPG to take forward which the group agreed to
 - RNIB and Action on Hearing Loss reporting back to the group on the results of the programme delivered with Crossreach, Age Scotland, and Alzheimer's Scotland.
 - Once the sensory strategy consultation is out that the CPG find a mechanism to discuss it.

5. Next meeting

Thursday 6th June at 1.30pm in meeting room Q1 –Q4 where Age Scotland will present on their community transport campaign

6. The group agreed to take forward an older people's housing session later on in 2013 with McCarthy and Stone presenting and again volunteers were asked to come forward to take on the role of Secretary and Treasurer to the CPG

7. AOB

8. Close