

**OLDER PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC ACTION FORUM (OPSAF) MEETING  
25 September 2018  
Meeting note**

**ITEM 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Attendees:**

Action on Elder Abuse – Lesley Carcary  
Age Scotland – Ashleigh de Verteuil  
Generations Working Together – Alison Clyde  
LGBT Health and Wellbeing – Maruska Greenwood  
Outside the Box – Kate Robertson & Pat Scrutton  
Scottish Older People's Assembly – Glenda Watt & Diana Findlay  
Scottish Pensioner's Forum - Rose J  
Scottish Seniors' Alliance – Bill Johnston & Dorothy Murray  
Trevor Owen – Head of Violence Against Women and Girls, Social Isolation and LGBTI Equality Policy, Scottish Government.

**Apologies:**

MECOPP – Suzanne Munday  
Faith in Older People – Maureen O'Neill  
Age Scotland – Adam Stachura  
Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau – Tracy McNally  
Soroptomist International – Mariane Sapcote  
Scottish Pensioners Forum – Eileen Cawley

- The Minister welcomed attendees and explained that this was her first OPSAF meeting since her appointment.
- The Minister thanked Dr Maureen Sier for kindly providing the group with a venue.
- The Minister briefly reflected on the meetings/events she attended with the organisations individually over the summer and outlined her hopes that this engagement would continue throughout the development of the Older People's Framework and beyond.

**ITEM 2 – PREVIOUS MINUTES AND ACTIONS**

- June's minutes were agreed.
- A copy of the actions are noted.

OLDER PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC ACTION FORUM

	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<b>ACTION NOV1</b>	The Minister will write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport to obtain information on engagement of older people on the joint boards and circulate that to the group	<b>COMPLETE</b> 16/05/18 Annex to letter of 16/05 contained response from Cabinet Secretary Health
<b>ACTION NOV2</b>	The alignment of this group with others hosted by Scottish Government was discussed, in particular the Older People's Development Group, with the latter focussing specifically on health and social care. The Minister emphasised that she saw this group as being an overarching one, which enabled her to take forward her role as the Scottish Government Minister with overall responsibility for older people. It was agreed that this strategic role would be reflected in the group title	<b>COMPLETE</b> 16/05/18 Minister advised in her letter of 16/05 that the group name has been amended to OPSAF.
<b>ACTION NOV3</b>	It was agreed that a meeting of the group with the Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, to discuss the impact of Brexit on older people, would be arranged	<b>ONGOING</b> – meeting time to be identified. <b>Ongoing – Minister to consider</b>
<b>ACTION NOV4</b>	Age Scotland highlighted an amendment to the EU (Withdrawal) Bill being supported by them and other third sector organisations and it was agreed that this would be circulated to the group.	<b>COMPLETE</b> <b>30/05/2018</b>
<b>ACTION NOV5</b>	It was agreed that the title and initial context of the paper should reflect the remit of the group and its overall focus on action to ensure a positive aging experience, with dignity and respect	<b>COMPLETE</b> 29/11/18
<b>ACTION JUN1</b>	The Minister agreed to discuss the extension of the Domestic Abuse Act to include older people, with the Justice Secretary Michael Matheson.	<b>Ongoing – Minister will reflect on this.</b>
<b>ACTION JUN2</b>	The Minister advised that Jamie MacDougall and Lesley Fraser would be made aware of OPSAF's interest in their work, noting a strategic approach was necessary for this work	<b>COMPLETE – underway with officials.</b>
<b>ACTION JUN3</b>	The Minister advised that she would write to Ministerial colleagues about how they are listening to older people.	<b>COMPLETE – 25/06/18</b>
<b>ACTION JUN4</b>	Sean Stronach asked attendees if they had any examples of negative SG messaging on older people to please send them to us	<b>COMPLETE – no communications received.</b>

### ITEM 3 – MINISTERIAL UPDATE

- The Minister outlined the extent of her portfolio responsibility and that she had spent time looking at the different strands of this sector which had helped her to draw out both the biggest challenges going forward and potential resolutions.
- The Minister touched on the decision to move the publication date for the framework to next March, confirming that this allows for sufficient space between the framework and the social isolation and loneliness strategy which should be published by the end of the year.
- The Minister went on to announce £50,000 of funding that she had made available to the group to bid for, noting that some organisations had similar issues with capacity.
- The Minister advised that funding was hope to be finalised by the end of October.

**ACTION SEP1: Officials will write to OPSAF with details on the bid and the process for bidding shortly.**

OPSAF members input:

- The 'Growing older and wiser together' strategy as a potential model for the framework was suggested.
- Some members commented that meetings sometimes accomplish little and most of the work the group does seems to be meeting based.
- Ross Greer is holding an event in the Scottish Parliament on the Scottish Futures Forum. Members asked what was the connection there? The Minister commented that she wasn't particularly aware of this event as the Parliament Project is entirely separate from the Government.

**ACTION SEP2: Officials will send relevant details of the Scottish Parliament Futures Forum to OPSAF members for information.**

### ITEM 4 – SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

- Trevor Owen, Head of Violence Against Women and Girls, Social Isolation and LGBTI Equality Policy, provided update on the social isolation and loneliness draft strategy.
- Aiming to have the strategy published by January 2018.
- Events have taken place throughout the country in both urban and rural areas to carry out research into what the barriers were to communities in terms of tackling social isolation and loneliness.
- 400 responses to the consultation were received.
- Scottish Government are not aware of any other strategy in the world of its kind.

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OPSAF members input:

- As this is the first in the world of its kind, could Scotland hold an international conference on the strategy and the work on older people in order to inspire other countries to follow suit/celebrate Scotland being a world leader? The Minister expressed interest in this idea and advised officials would look into it.
- Could the social isolation and loneliness strategy be integrated into PSED? The Minister explained that she had extended the review period on PSED by almost a year and would be grateful for any contributions towards it.
- Where is the connection between Local Authority and integrated joint boards? How does the Government plan to ensure that the strategy is effectively rolled out locally?

**ACTION SEP3: Officials will send OPSAF members details of PSED review so that they can contribute to the discussion.**

**ACTION SEP4: Officials will look into the idea of developing a conference on social isolation and loneliness and ageing.**

### ITEM 5 – POLICY UPDATE

- Sean Stronach gave an update on the meeting with SPF, Age Scotland, SSA and SOPA which was facilitated by the Voluntary Action Fund. Sean explained that there wasn't much to report but wanted OPSAF members to be aware that this work was happening in parallel with OPSAF.

OPSAF members input:

- Some members were not aware of progress in terms of housing strategy.
- Specific materials on democracy matters and hate crime development would be helpful on the back of the presentations and for those who had not been able to attend.
- Better use of time is required – too many meetings for members to managed to attend (across the various SG portfolios).
- The Live Changes Trust Dementia Project has resulted in non-dementia focused organisations now doing work on dementia. This strategy should be looked at across the board.
- The need to consider intersectionality across all issues for older people is critical. The Minister agreed and commented on the number of non-age related stakeholder organisations that were doing work on older people.

**ACTION SEP5: Officials will provide OPSAF members with further information / links on democracy matters and hate crime.**

**ACTION SEP6: Officials will provide OPSAF members with an update on the revised housing strategy and look into issues around (a) housing, planning and the built environment and (b) Brexit.**

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### ITEM 6 – FRAMEWORK

- Eileen Flanagan advised that there was a requirement to bring cohesion across the 3 areas that had been discussed as the body of the framework, including items for immediate action and longer term aims.
- The Minister explained that she had gathered information from the introductory meetings and will write again to Cabinet to find out what is being done in regards to older people across all policy areas. This will take place soon. OPSAF members were asked to highlight any other strands of work they would be keen to have more clarity on.

**ACTION SEP7: The Minister will write to Cabinet colleagues to find out what is being done across Government in terms of older people, with specific examples requested.**

#### **OPSAF members input:**

- The framework should be a legacy for young people, as they will inherit it. The Minister expressed interest in this idea and advised that this would be borne in mind.
- Equality impact assessments should be integrated into all policy work across government. The Minister advised that analytical officials are working on improvements for EQIAs and it was also being considered as part of the wider PSED review.
- There should be an online portal for older people/older people's organisations out-with OPSAF to contribute to the framework.
- It was commented that food and nutrition and lifelong learning so far had not featured in OPSAF discussions – this was noted by officials.

**ACTION SEP8: Officials will investigate the possibility of an online portal to capture information relevant to older people and ageing.**

**ACTION SEP9: Officials will work with colleagues to identify work that could be developed around food and nutrition and lifelong learning.**

### ITEM 6 – CONCLUDE

- The Minister thanked OPSAF members for attending and for their input to the meeting.
- The date of the next meeting will be advised in due course.

**List of September Actions**

**ACTION SEP1:** Officials will write to OPSAF with details on the bid and the process for bidding shortly.

**ACTION SEP2:** Officials will send relevant details of the Scottish Parliament Futures Forum to OPSAF members for information.

**ACTION SEP3:** Officials will send OPSAF members details of PSED review so that they can contribute to the discussion.

**ACTION SEP4:** Officials will look into the idea of developing a conference on social isolation and loneliness and ageing.

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