

Gloucestershire Older Persons'



Report of the Inaugural Assembly 22nd April

Aims of the meeting

- To communicate with as many older persons as possible and with those organisations supporting older people.
- To give an opportunity for people to learn about Gloucestershire Older Persons' Assembly.
- Of its inception, activities and of those who make up the Steering Group.
- To hear from the speakers Dr Ian Donald, Sue Grove and the keynote speaker Martin Shreeve.
- To encourage discussion and have the views of the audience regarding specific questions as well as issues they wish to address.
- To begin to plan the further development of Gloucestershire Older

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Outcomes of the meeting

- The keynote speaker, Martin Shreeve, was both provocative and interesting and the other speakers, Sue Grove and Dr. Ian Donald were informative and well received.
- There was a good response to the Inaugural Assembly Meeting, with more than 40 attendees, made up of individuals and organisational representatives, with many others expressing an interest and wishing to be kept informed about the activities of Gloucestershire Older Persons' Assembly (GOPA).
- This is a positive start and bodes well for of developing a structure and taking the organisation forward across Gloucestershire.

Speakers Input

Pamela Tawse, Deputy Chair

Pamela welcomed everyone to this Inaugural meeting and explained the evolution of Gloucestershire Older Persons' Assembly, how Age Concern Gloucestershire had received a grant from Comic Relief and had established the Steering Committee and appointed a Facilitator. Explaining the Role of GOPA and how this 'voice' was highlighting inequalities and providing information. She acknowledged and paid tribute to the many organisations proving support and services to older people across the county.

Welcome

Dr. Ian Donald, Consultant Elderly Care, Glos. Royal Hospital

Ian began by introducing everyone to the National Service Framework (NSF) with particular reference to it being patient centred and, aiming to root out age discrimination. As 70% of hospital in-patients were over 65 the aim of the Health Service to 'get it right for older people'.

Growing Older

Things are improving with quicker access to GP's, reduced waiting times for clinics and operations, more hip replacements and cataract operations, and with waiting time in Accident & Emergency getting shorter.

Five priority areas are being addressed; Emergency Care, Intermediate care - rehabilitation, the integration of mental health care into the whole system, Long-term care (access, choice and quality of care) and Healthy Ageing. It is important to note that the listening process is two way; responding to your concerns and priorities, but also professionals need to get the message across, to educate and promote healthy ageing.

Mick Churchward, Assembly Facilitator

GOPA Input & Influences

Many presentations to Social Services; the Primary Health Care Trusts and the Social Services Inspectorate have been made by older people, i.e. GOPA representatives. Our interaction and networking with so many groups and

organisations has greatly helped to raise the profile and awareness of older people.

Information from the data base is providing essential detail for reports, and when supporting individuals. An example of our work was the Facilitator's attendance at the House of Commons Health Seminar, following the publication of Ombudsman's Report (February 2003) regarding unfair Nursing Care Charges. GOPA has been supporting a local family involved in these issues.

Sue Grove, Director of Age Concern Gloucestershire

Promoting Action

Sue gave an overview of "the Debate of the Age", 1999 explaining how this had led to an Agenda for Action, with positive change occurring with the Winter Warmth allowances being paid automatically, Action on Poverty and action to curb age discrimination, and progress with health care issues developing.

Since "the Debate of the Age" the need for a collective voice has been realised with the inception of GOPA. We are all here today, to offer the opportunity to older people to actively engage in the formulation of services, through this Assembly. Sue embraced the need to involve this age group, extolling the skills and experience that are being under utilised. She pointed out that that it was up to older people to become involved via local community district meetings so passing their respective concerns to a county assembly. In this way concerns would be brought to regional meetings and solutions presented by pensioners. At present, older people are only seen as a problem, and not as a problem solvers.

Martin Shreeve

The National Picture

Martin's presentation was both thought provoking and provocative, posing questions that needed close attention from the audience, which were aimed right at the heart of "What did Gloucestershire older people want from their Assembly?" This initial consideration was finely tuned to tease out from the audience their views, attitudes, ideas and needs towards an Assembly, and the direction that this organisation should take.

What is in a name?

Why do we need GOPA?

To whom is GOPA accountable?

What is the purpose of GOPA?

Who/where does GOPA seek to influence

These broad questions were eventually put as four specific questions to the group, the responses to which are shown on the next page.

As the former Programme Director of Better Government for Older People Martin was able to share with us his

experience, giving examples of organisations across the UK, their development beyond the initial stages, and the

issues that they are addressing. Imposing a specific scenario upon Gloucestershire was not the answer,

Questions raised from the floor

Health Care Issues

Pursuing only health and care issue could lead to older people being seen only as the source of a problem, and not as a resource for solving a problem.

Pension and Council Tax

These two points have generated very strong feelings and resentment. This response is as a result of the low increases in Pensions and the higher increases in Council Tax. This point has

received attention from the government and county councillors, with both blaming each other for the substantial increase.

How will GOPA "get to other older people"?

A question raised at the conference and one that is continually being asked in most parts of the county, but still a very valid one that needs addressing.

Increasing the membership of GOPA

This perhaps is within the next phase of the Assembly and one in which Martin Shreeve can guide us.

The four specific questions put to the audience & breakdown of their responses

To whom should Gloucestershire Older Persons' Assembly be accountable?

- Concern about access and inclusion 1
- Who does the organisation feel they are accountable to? 2
- Social Service 2
- Members/attendees to meetings 4
- Essentially older people in the county 16

25 replies

What should Gloucestershire Older Persons' Assembly do?

- Not get too wily and self centred 1
- Collectively present, as this strength 1
- Build local areas up, inclusive, seek views & communicate 2
- Be in partnership/networking 5
- Lobby, campaign, advocate, change, represent, action on views 5
- Be a voice, research, organise, able to talk & help themselves 9

23 replies

Who should Gloucestershire Older Persons' Assembly seek to influence?

- All people so that they can understand

- Older people in Gloucestershire 1
 - Local, Regional & Central Government (including MP's), the HA/PCT's, Service Providers, the "powers that be" 14
- 16 replies**

Why do we need Gloucestershire Older Persons' Assembly?

- To bring together, across generations, service providers, older peoples groups, to visit N/R homes and generally help older people 1
- For a Cross Cutting body, developing the NSF, illustrating healthy lifestyle and to act as resource and solution 1
- Because being in contact means we are not alone 1
- To act as an advocate 1
- To help group the various bodies to make a stronger voice 2
- To educate older & younger people and other interested parties 2
- To providing an information network and direct people to services 4
- For researching, to be "own voice" and represent older people 11

Martin Shreeve's evaluation of the views from those attending the Initial Assembly, expressed in the "post it", (which is fully analysed below) are these:-

1. An Assembly that was accountable to all older people in Gloucestershire.
2. An Assembly that had a co-ordinating function as an information resource for older people in the County.
3. An Assembly that sought to influence local services.
4. An Assembly that sought to influence Central Government policy.
5. The Assembly membership should be of older people rather than of organisations representing older

Written comments handed in at the end

- Many Churches hold older people's groups, this is a potential access to older people.
- The forthcoming changes to Post Office collection of Pensions, the use of a pin number and a plastic card, are of considerable concern to a large number of people.
- Bus passes continue to confuse and annoy people endeavouring to achieve a countywide approach.
- Would it not be better to invite a larger number of older people to the Assembly to speak for themselves? Listen to what older people worry about, financial security, personal security, transport and health.
- Please could you pay special attention to groups who are not normally represented by those who have no transport and on income support?
- Who is recognised by GOPA as an older person? There is no clear line as in the Victorian age! Some old at 50, others young at 90 What consultation/involvement of 'older people' has taken place in the evolution of GOPA? What do people expect of GOPA?
- National issues to be followed up: - Mental Incapacity Bill – and rights of family/nominated representatives. – Safety of Medicines, full information including adverse effects for patient and informal carers. Issue of Patient Information leaflets to carers
- Those wanting help should be encouraged to state exactly what their needs are.

List of Attendees



For Further Information

If you or your organisation would like to be involved in the further development of Gloucestershire Older Persons' Assembly and you haven't contacted the Assembly Facilitator yet, please contact: Mick Churchward at GloucesterCVS, 75-81 Eastgate St Gloucester, GL1 1PN

Tel: 01452 332424 Email:

First Name	Last Name	Representing
Mrs S	Alder	St. Hida's Ladies Group, Matson
Brenda	Ansley	Churchdown citizen
Roy	Ansley	GOPA & Churchdown citizen
Mrs Jean	Barry	Staunton, Hartbury, Maisemore & District Over 60's Club
Frank	Beattie	Hestersway Partnership
Mrs M N	Bevan	Staunton, Hartbury, Maisemore & District Over 60's Club
Mrs Jennifer	Brown	Manor Day Home
Mr Roderick	Buchanan	Black Elders Day centre
Tony	Burton	NSF "RETHINK severe mental illness"
Gill	Carne	Lydbrooke Community Care
Mick	Churchward	Assembly Facilitator
Ruth	Darbon	Windrush Carers Support Group
Dr. Ian	Donald	Consultant Elderly Care Physician Gloucester Royal Hosp
Mrs Avril	Evans	Coverage Care
Rosemary	Franklin	The Mothers Union
Mrs J	Gamble	Leader, Good Companions Club- Tewkesbury
Mr Mike	Glynn	Living Independently in Gloucestershire
Claire	Goodchild	Public Health Manager, Partnership. West Glos.PCT
Sue	Grove	Director Age Concern Gloucestershire
Helen	Hughes	Chief Executive GlosCVS
Steve	Ireland	Gloucestershire Social Services
Irene	Jones	TGWU Retired Members Association
Gillian M	Marriott	Good Companions (Uplands)
Diana	Martin	Bream Health Forum
Sandra M	Meek-Williams	Newent Association for the Disabled
Diana	O'Keeffe	Tewkesbury Volunteer & Help Centre
Mrs D	Organ	Leader, Good Companions Club- Tewkesbury
Barbara	Page	Stroud College
Meena	Patel	CAREdirect
Barbara	Piranty	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
Mrs Phyllis	Pettman	Thursday Club Cheltenham
Margaret	Sheather	Director Social Service
Martin	Shreeve	Key note speaker
Ms Jo	Stait	Coverage Care
Bob	Stanbanks	Senior Persons User Group
Mrs A	Tavener	Gloucester Resident
Pamela	Tawse	Uplands Care Service
Francesca	Toland	Churches Together in Gloucestershire
Miss Iris	Trask	Abbeyfield Gloucester Society
Kate	Vatalis	Stroud citizen

Individuals and Organisations not able to attend but wishing to be kept informed (including all local MP's and Paul Burstow MP)

Allison J	Andrew	Group Care Manager CTCH Ltd
Andrew	Banfield	CAB Chelt/Cotswold & Tewkesbury
Helen	Bown	Manager Older Person's Services
Mr CG	Bradley	Moreton in Marsh Inst & Leisure Group
Rev Janet	Bromley	Market & Coastal Towns Initiative: Older People's Working Group, Dursely
Mr DA	Brownjohn	Glos Branch Nat. Federation of Post Office & BT Pensioners Welfare
Mr Colin	Chave	Chairman of Trustees. Newent Association for the Disabled
Mr Stuart	Conlon	Mental Health Service Older People Coney Hill
Mrs Sue	Coombs	Mental Health Service Older People Coney Hill
Nic	Davis	Social Service (Policy and Procedures)
Major Paul	Doust	The salvation army, Barnwood
Mr Tim	Fretter	Forest Voluntary Action Forum
Alan	Gore	General Manager Age Concern, Forest of Dean
Mrs Lillian	Harris	Manager Manor Day Home
Ted	Hemmings	Cheltenham Citizen
Sue	Jagger	Training Officer, Gloucestershire Social Service, SS Department
Becky	Jarvis	Involvement Manager Cirencester Hospital
Mrs P	Jenkins	Churchdown Ace Concern
Catherine	Jones	Acting Manager Tewkesbury DC
Mrs E	Long	Accessibility Gloucester
John	Macklin	Training Consultant
Mrs D	Matthew	Dr. Charley Day Centre, Coleford
Jean	Marshall	Accessibility Gloucester
Marion	Merrick	Gloucester Citizen
Mr Claude	Mickleston	Forest of Dean Pensioners Action Association
Anne	Millian	Barchester Healthcare
Nell	Moody	Coffee Mornings for the Elderly
Eileen	Randle	North Cotswold 92 Club
Merci	Rebiti	Stroud & District CVS
Diana	Simon	Quality Advocacy (QUAD)
Mrs Janet	Stone	Cheltenham & District Hard of Hearing Club
Mrs J	Trepise	Cosy Club, South Cerney
James	Ward	Bishops Cleeve Senior Residents Club
Mrs D	Weaver	Leonard Stanley Citizen
Sue	White	Tetbury Day Service