

Wisdom in Practice

Capacity building with older people to develop user-led services

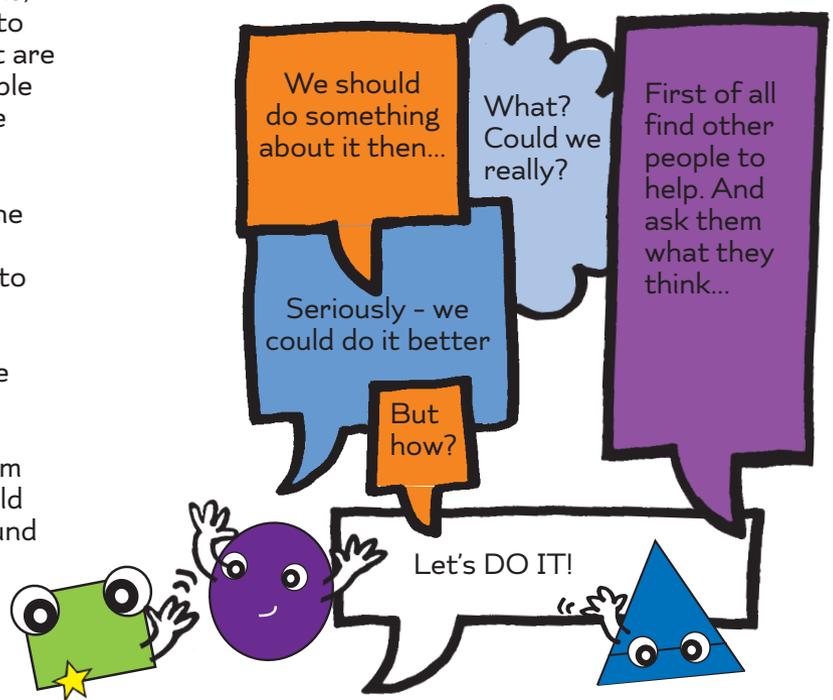


About the project

Wisdom in Practice aims to build on the skills, knowledge and confidence of older people, to enable you to start or develop services that are led by older people. It works with older people across Scotland to make a difference to the opportunities and services you can use.

The project is supported by a grant from the Scottish Government under the Equalities funding programme and will run for 3 years to early 2015.

We can work with people aged 50 and above across Scotland, in cities, towns and rural areas. We particularly want to work with older people who sometimes get missed from initiatives for older people, or feel they would like to start services that are designed around their circumstances. This includes people from the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) communities and Black and Minority Ethnic communities.



How to get in touch

There will be updates on the project on the website and in newsletters. You can reach us at: Outside the Box, Unit 23, 150 Brand St, Glasgow G51 1DH. T. 0141 419 0451 admin@otbds.org

There is more information about Outside the Box and some of the work we have done with older people and people in other circumstances on the website. This includes other examples of people working to develop user-led services.

www.otbds.org

What we mean by user-led services

The services can be anything which provides practical benefit to older people. Examples could be:

- Peer support groups, where people support themselves and each other.
- Information and advice – older people's tips and hints on coping with changing circumstances or making a contribution in their community.
- Activities that encourage and help older people to tackle social isolation.
- Ways for people to keep well and have a good life.
- It can be an on-going service or something that happens over a short period such as producing a handbook or an activity that lasts a short time.

The user-led part of it means that older people have a significant role in setting the values and detail of the service as well as deciding that it is needed. Examples could be:

- Older people make up all or most of the committee of a group which develops the project.
- They are the people who deliver the service – as staff, volunteers or as peers.
- They are an advisory group which leads the project and someone else then delivers it for them.



What will happen

We are talking to people to find out about existing examples of services led by older people, and to hear about the gaps that people see and your ideas about the ways older people can contribute to making things better.

We are working with some local projects, to help people there develop their ideas. Examples can be:

- Developing an initial idea to the point where it is a plan.
- Checking out the feasibility and level of interest – is there a need for it and will it work?
- Identifying sources of funding and helping with funding applications.
- Finding partners and other people and organisations who can help you.
- Practical first steps to get it started.

We can give advice and support to other older people who are already involved in setting up services led by older people.

- There are updates on the website and through a newsletter.
- There will be events where you can meet other people doing similar things in their own areas.

The development support is provided by development workers at Outside the Box and by Community Advisors, who are older people who have experience of leading or providing new ventures. Outside the Box is a voluntary organisation which provides development support to people and groups across Scotland who want to create positive change.

