

Re-focusing the Older People's Service Providers' Forum

Why?

- Make the forum more inclusive and representative of older people's services in Edinburgh
- Have clear and realistic priorities for the year ahead to which we can all be accountable
- Become more influential as a collective body – give the forum some rigour!
- Raise awareness of ourselves as a collective voice

First steps

- Elected new Chair and Vice-Chair of Forum – Andrew Farr (Libertus) and Kellie Mercer (Caring in Craigmillar)
- Survey sent to forum members in November to gauge their opinions and priorities for forum
- Set up two externally facilitated discussion sessions in January to follow up survey findings and priorities for group
- Use this information to determine focus for the forum over the coming year

Survey Findings

How we work together as a group – we want:

- Key priorities for the group, that are agreed by all
- A framework for embracing the diversity of voices in the room
- An effective remit and clear way of working together
- A clear plan for the year ahead

Survey Findings

Our Priorities:

Short-term: response to COVID, sharing peer learning, co-promotion of activities

Medium-term: asking for advice and support, sharing information/best practice, developing partnerships

Long-term: horizon scanning, influencing key stakeholders, collectively creating the best ecosystem of provision – ‘keeping older people at home safely for longer’

Facilitated Sessions

Format

- External facilitator
- Built on initial survey findings
- 2 x 2-hour sessions – mixture of plenary discussion, breakout groups and Slido polls
- 26 people in attendance

Facilitated Sessions – Outcomes

Some overlap with survey results.....

Priorities for the group:

- We will actively work to extend the membership of this group and help everyone have their voice heard
- We will create opportunities for small and informal collaborations between group members, as well as more formal partnerships
- We will offer peer support to each other – addressing the isolation we can feel

Facilitated Sessions – Outcomes

Things the group can influence:

- Identify and engage with a small group of key influencers (MPs, MSPs, Councillors, funders etc.)
- Identify and establish a small number of expert/subgroups tasked with identifying key information to influence, identify representatives for the group and ensure feedback is provided to the main forum.
- Increased marketing/communication on behalf of the group – e.g. through EVOIC website/increase advocacy role.

Facilitated Sessions – Outcomes

Issues which should be prioritised over the next year:

- Specific support for reopening/recovering services post-COVID.
- More funding (and more consistent funding) available for older people's services.
- Addressing loneliness amongst older people
- More promotion of services to better reach those 'hardest to reach' or who might fall between the gaps.
- Clearer communication and more equal collaborative working between government and service providers.

Next steps

- Invite reflection and feedback from group on discussion and priorities – put together action plan
- Establish sub-groups to meet and take forward priorities for the year ahead
- Agree and update policy items/membership pack to include: terms of reference, representation policy, safer spaces/conduct document and share with group
- Gather members' biographies
- Agree clear format for future meetings – normal agenda first half/second half devoted to specific topic?
- Dates for peer support meetings