

SEEFA Member Briefing January 2016

We thought SEEFA members might appreciate a short written briefing. Further information is available from any member of the SEEFA Executive Group or you could have a look on the SEEFA website at www.SEEFA.org.uk.

1. **The SEEFA Convention.** This event took place at Richmond House on 2 November 2015 and was entitled: *Shaping Our Own Future: Activism in Later Life*. David Brindle chaired the event and the notable speakers included: Dame Philippa Russell; Lord Geoffrey Filkin; Professor Leela Damodaran; Dr Jonathan Collie; Guy Robertson; Jeremy Porteus and Nick Wilson. The event called for a 'new narrative' which provides for a positive portrayal of later life and challenges negative attitudes to ageing. Planning is underway for taking forward the idea of the new narrative.
2. **Three SEEFA Policy Panels on Later Life and Ageing.** A Policy Panel took place in September on the subject of Housing and Long Term Care and this event was hosted by Triangle Care and Friends of the Elderly. Here we developed key issues and looked at the concepts of 'activism' and co production in the housing and care arena. We have major concerns about the choice and availability of good quality later life housing and care and would like to see major improvements across the board.

A special Policy Panel took place in November and members assisted Barclays with their Community Hubs Project which aims to improve digital inclusion across the country.

A further Policy Panel took place on 15 January 2016 and here we examined SEEFA's reach and influence and what can be done to improve our impact using our limited financial resources. Our speakers included Simon Taylor and Alasdair Mackenzie. Many ideas were collected on effective influencing. An action plan will be produced which will guide SEEFA's activities in the coming year.

3. **Digital Inclusion.** This work continues and we are still pursuing the twin strands of 1) influencing digital technology designers and 2) working on a practical basis to improve local access to information technology. Mike Bojczuk is leading on this work
4. **Communicating across the South East.** SEEFA's work to identify our reach across the SE continues. We currently link with 35 local Older People's Forums and 7 County wide Forums. In addition we link with 28 specialist or community of interest groups. We are keen to extend this reach and would be pleased to make contact with any other groups. If you know of any please ask them to make contact.
5. **National links.** Our national links are extensive. SEEFA's representative on the UK Advisory Forum on Ageing (UKAFA) is Jean Gaston Parry. SEEFA has the opportunity here to meet Ministers and raise later life issues, including key issues from Policy Panels. Further information about UKAFA is to be found on: www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-advisory-forum-on-ageing. Recognising there is strength in numbers, the English Forum Chairs come together to work jointly and offer assistance and advice to policy makers on later life matters.

Peter is part of this Forum and Marjory is their Independent Chair. We are now working regularly with the Centre for Ageing Better. In addition to all of the above, we are active members of the Age Action Alliance and have representation on most AAA Working Groups.

6. **DWP Funding.** It was announced in December, as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review, that the Government would no longer be supporting the 9 Regional Forums on Ageing or UKAFA through the small amount of grant funding currently received. Although this is not good news SEEFA can confirm that we shall continue to operate as an independent registered charity.

SEEFA appreciates all your help and support!

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