

# POSITIVE Ageing in London

## Positive Ageing in London Newsletter January 2014

### 2014 Meetings and workshops

#### 10 February 2014 Meeting : Engagement through Arts

Positive Ageing in London's next quarterly meeting will focus on engagement with older people through arts activities. Guest speakers will be Susie Miller, Director, Capital Age Festival, <http://www.capitalagefestival.org.uk/> and George Baddeley, Managing Director, Silver Comedy, <http://silvercomedy.co.uk/>

The meeting will be at Age UK London, from 10.30 - 15.00. A full agenda will be available nearer the time: to register, please contact Sharon Tynan, [stynan@ageuklondon.org.uk](mailto:stynan@ageuklondon.org.uk)

#### Reminder: Wealth of the web: Broadening horizons online, 27 January

You can still register for Positive Ageing in London's two digital inclusion events on 27 January at Coin Street Community Centre, near Waterloo Station:

Interactive workshop for older people: 14.00 – 15.30 (Lunch available from 12.30): <https://digitalcamapaignworkshop.eventbrite.co.uk> This is particularly addressed to older people who are interested in getting more involved with the digital world.

Launch of Age UK London report "Wealth of the Web: Broadening horizons online", 16.30 – 18.00 (finishing with a drinks reception): <https://digitalcampaignlaunch.eventbrite.co.uk> This is particularly addressed to staff, trustees and volunteers of partner organisations.

#### Save the Date: Redefining Ageing, 24 March 2014

Our conference on 24 March in central London will look at new ideas of ageing, with high level keynote speakers: more details to follow soon!

## **Late 2013 Meetings and workshops**

### **10 September 2013 Meeting**

The key discussion topics at this meeting were on making London a dementia friendly city, and on the Mayor of London's plans for the 2014 Know Your Rights campaign.

#### **Making London a Dementia Friendly City**

##### **- Jan Kendall - Dementia Advocacy Network (DAN)**

A mapping exercise had been carried out by DAN. They spoke to 142 organisations across London including independent advocacy services. There are many organisations across the capital giving advice but not advocacy.

27 of all London boroughs said that there would be someone in the borough providing dementia advocacy.

6 boroughs couldn't find anyone or any organisation

1 of the above 6 had just received funding

Under the Mental Capacity Act by law there has to be an advocate if the person fits the criteria. There are issues with the statutory advocacy criteria where some people may fall through the gaps and fit one part of the criteria but not all of it.

DAN was to present the report at an event on 18 September with commissioners, carers and members of forums across London. Presenting on the day were people with dementia from Lewisham Mind, an independent advocate, the manager of an advocacy service and an advocate from an organisation giving a broad overview of advocacy services.

PAIL agreed to help publicise the report once it is published.

Sadly, DAN has since had to close because of financial difficulties. Key resources produced by DAN can be found on the PAIL website: <http://pailondon.org.uk/>

##### **-Esther Watts – Alzheimers Society – Dementia Action Alliance**

31,000 people in London have been diagnosed with dementia. It is thought that 38,000 in London have undiagnosed dementia. With an ageing society this is a growing issue.

Dementia Action Alliances (DAA) are a social movement and members are made up of a wide variety of organisations, businesses and individuals. She would like to widen the membership to include supermarkets, banks, shops, galleries, football clubs etc.

Some London boroughs have already set up a DAA. Boroughs that have are Enfield, Westminster, Redbridge, Greenwich, Tower Hamlets, Islington, Richmond and Lambeth's has been set up by the lead nurse at Guys and St Thomas hospital. At the time of this meeting 44 DAA had been set up across England.

Alzheimers Society run a campaign called Dementia friends, people are given a short training / information session (45 minutes – 1 hour) and they become Dementia friends. There is a day long training session if somebody would like to train as a Dementia Champion. The Metropolitan police as members of a Dementia Action Alliance have committed to having 2 Dementia Champions in each London borough.

There was a concern around the table that 45 minutes is not enough time. EW agreed but felt that as an awareness raising event it couldn't be a bad thing. The group asked who checks up on the Alliances across London and the rest of England, EW explained that they are self-policing. There was a discussion about whether the GLA might join the pan-London Alliance.

More information about local Dementia Action Alliances can be found at [http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local\\_alliances](http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local_alliances)

#### **Mayor's Know Your Rights Campaign 2014**

Farah Ikram and her team from the GLA gave a presentation on how GLA have been running the Know Your Rights campaigns each year to encourage benefit uptake – including in particular, pension credit uptake. The campaign is targeted particularly at outer London boroughs as the target audience according to DWP statistics are in these locations. Last year local borough Age UKs ran fifteen benefit take up workshops as part of the Know Your Rights campaign and GLA mentioned that they aimed to run these again with local Age UKs. The campaign was measured by numbers of calls re: benefits to the Age UK information and advice helplines.

It emerged from the discussion that the DWP don't do take-up campaigns anymore. DWP do work with partners to help spread the word e.g. working with health professionals to reach house bound people.

It was agreed that PAiL members would help the GLA to develop the messaging for the 2014 campaign.

#### **Other main points discussed:**

##### **Update on Positive Ageing in London work programme and website**

The PAiL website was to go live by mid September and the website link would be circulated to all members as a reminder once it went live. [www.pailondon.org.uk](http://www.pailondon.org.uk)

The workplan was discussed with one amendment agreed by the membership. The change would be to cancel the November green deal workshop and instead run four training sessions led by National Energy Action. .

##### **Update from UK Advisory Forum on Ageing (UKAFA)**

Ellen Lebethe as the London representative for UK Advisory Forum on Ageing (UKAFA) informed the group that at the next UKAFA meeting she would be raising the issues of fuel poverty, the definition of fuel poverty and the crisis in Accident & Emergency where there is now a 50 minute average waiting time. She also informed PAiL as the London regional forum on ageing that Peter Coleing from Future East - the Eastern regional forum on ageing - is the new Chair of UKAFA.

### **Policy Update from Age UK London**

Gordon Deuchars (Age UK London) updated participants about the “Lobbying Bill” which was creating a lot of concern among voluntary sector organisations because it threatened to lead to damaging curbs on campaigning activity by charities and others. Participants were also concerned about what might happen to many older people’s organisations and pensioners’ forums that are not registered charities but are involved in campaigning.

### **Information and Practice Exchange**

Participants exchanged information about key pieces of work their organisations were involved in which could be of interest for other PAIL members.

### **13 December 2013 Meeting**

This was a strategy session to assess how Positive Ageing in London is doing and how we can develop in future. The discussion used a structure analysing PAIL’s objectives, membership and governance, effectiveness and connections and representation. A full analysis of the results has still to be agreed but the discussions showed participants felt PAIL was making strong progress, while identifying areas for improvement.

### **17 October 2013 – Workshop on “Supporting Older People’s Contribution to London”**

Positive Ageing in London’s workshop saw the launch of the Mayor of London’s report on “The Economic Contribution of Older Londoners” - <http://bit.ly/176hEJq> which shows the huge amount older people contribute to the economy in London. The report generated considerable positive media coverage. Participants discussed how to support the contributions of older people in the areas of employment, volunteering, care for adults and care for children.

### **9 December 2013 – workshop on “Shaping the Future of Older Londoners’ Health and Social Care”**

A wide ranging discussion was led by guest speakers from NHS England (London Region), the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and London Connect. The discussion covered changes in older people’s social care, views on the NHS’s London Call to Action -

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/london/london-2/ldn-call-to-action/> and the usefulness of online patient health records.