

**From:** Danny Elliott  
**Sent:** 07 January 2016 15:48  
**To:** Danny Elliott  
**Subject:** FW: PAiL Newsletter - Jan 2016

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## Newsletter: Jan 2016

**Positive Ageing in London wishes you a Happy New Year and all the best for 2016!**

**Positive Ageing in London Team**

### Cessation of Government Funding to Nine English Regions on Ageing and UK Advisory Forum on Ageing

#### **A letter from the Chair of Positive Ageing in London**

Chairs of the nine English Forums on Ageing were advised in early December of the Government's intention to withdraw funding and support. PAiL, as one of the Forums will therefore no longer receive direct funding from April 2016.

I have over December and this week, been in direct contact with Marjory Broughton (Independent Chair of the Chairs' group), the English Chairs and Age UK London who provide our secretariat to discuss this news in the context of a collective response from across the nine Regions.

A letter was sent on our behalf from the Chairs group to the Ministers of State for Communities and Social Care and Department of Works and Pensions. As of 6th January we have received neither acknowledgement nor formal response from either Department.

The rationale behind the Government's decision 'appears' to be linked to austerity measures and a view that 'the time is right to take ageing issues to the next level' but failed to explain what this meant in policy and practice terms. We have no idea what its plans are to develop policies for an ageing population across and within State departments.

I have agreed with Age UK London's CEO Sam Mauger that we ought to seek, in the first place, alternative funding streams to sustain PAiL whilst we await a response from Government. There is clearly little possibility that it will reconsider its decision and despite the Chairs Group's original belief that we should not voice publicly our concerns prior to a reply to our collective letter, given we are now in early January we are about to use the media to openly express our concerns, the Government's flawed rationale and its ignoring of our request and those concerns.

PAiL is meeting on 14th January and we will of course have this as the main agenda item to consult and decide specifically PAiL's strategy and London wide response. I shall also at that meeting be able to share additional information. Your views will be most welcome.

**Mervyn Eastman**  
**PAiL Chair**

## PAiL Meeting 14 January



Positive Ageing in London has its next meeting on 14 January 2016 starting at 10.30am with a provisional finish time of 1.00pm.

Key agenda items will include:

- Impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review
- Withdrawal of government funding and future of PAiL (see above!)
- Election of Vice-Chair of Positive Ageing in London

This time the meeting will take place at:

Salvation Army Community Church Hall  
1 Princess Street  
London SE1 6HH  
(Elephant and Castle)

If you plan to attend but have not yet confirmed, please do so by emailing **Sharon**

Tynan.

## Forthcoming PAiL Meetings

### 15 March - 'Resisting Everyday Ageism' Conference

Positive Ageing in London is holding its annual conference on the theme of standing up to ageism. More information and a link to register for the conference will be available very soon. If you would like further information please email Sharon Tynan.

### 8 March – PAiL Meeting

PAiL's last regular meeting in 2015-16 will take up the discussions on PAiL's future work. Details are TBC but the meeting will provisionally be at Age UK London starting at 10.30am.

## PAiL Research Update: Older People in London's Local Economies

Positive Ageing in London is researching how older people are involved in London boroughs' local employment and economic plans. How are Councils supporting older people to contribute through employment, volunteering or otherwise? A desk research assessment of the extent to which older people are included in published local economic development strategies has been completed. We are now hoping to carry out interviews with older people and local groups and aim to develop some local case studies showing both good practice and barriers which have been encountered.

To find out more or if you would like to contribute information or views, please contact Ben Donovan.

## Event Report: Ageing in London? No Problem!

### PAiL debates asset based approaches to ageing, 26 November 2015

Some 50 older people and representatives of local organisations and London boroughs met to discuss the increasingly common 'asset based' approach to ageing. Mervyn Eastman, PAiL's Chair, and David Wilcox, Social Reporter, introduced the topic – starting from older people's contribution to the community and what they are able to do, rather than the 'problems and deficit' view of older people.

Guest speakers were:

- Mel Wright, Coordinator of Kilburn Older Voices Exchange
- Judy Harrington, Project Manager, Ageing Better in Camden Partnership
- Margaret Edwards, London coordinator, Housing Learning and Improvement

Network

- Ben Donovan, Research and Policy Officer, Age UK London

All drew on work they are involved in where asset based approaches are key. You can see their presentations [here](#).

The presentations and discussion on them were followed by a panel session where participants raised issues including: the importance of intergenerational work, how the Camden example might influence other London boroughs, the importance of technology though it can't be imposed on all older people and the importance of resources and messages that are realistic about eg. how many older people do and how many don't have dementia.

## Conference on Best Practice in Age and Employment, 13 January 2016

**Wise Age would like to invite you to our Conference on Best Practice in Age and Employment in the EU and UK.**

**Date:** Wednesday, January 13th, 2016

**Time:** 10.00am – 2.00pm

**Venue:** Europe House, 32 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3EU

Wise Age Ltd is a voluntary not for profit organisation and is London's leading specialist 50+ employment support organisation.

In addition we are members of EU networks of best practice in 50+ employment and Training and from that have been able to research and appreciate many examples of best practice from around the EU.

We have been funded by the Trust for London since 2014 to provide Training the Trainers support to organisations in London in the field of Age and Employment to help them understand the needs of the older working age ( 50-65+), the barriers they face, the benefits they offer to employers, plus practical ways to deliver improved support to people aged 50+ looking for employment. This funding is delivered by our project called ROPES (Resourcing Older People's Employment Support) and we are pleased to be able to announce that this funding has now been renewed for a further two years.

This conference highlights key lessons that can be learnt from across the EU as well as providing Wise Age with a platform to promote the Best practice examples in how to help older working age people into employment and self employment.

Lunch will be provided at the end of the conference. This will allow delegates to relax, network, socialise and (we hope) get 2016 off to an energised, age-positive start.

Anyone wishing to attend please contact **Peter Murphy**. Please advise us of any special requirements you may have with regard to dietary requirements, reasonable adjustments you need to request to take account of any disabilities and health conditions, etc.

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