

Dear Sam Mauger and others who are part of the London Age Friendly Forum Coalition,

I am so thrilled to hear about this organisation. It's been one of my main concerns for years. I am originally from Ghana where old people are very respected for their wisdom and very much at the heart of family and community life. But here in London, for example, my 93 year old mother struggles with loneliness. Her church was her connection to community but that has dwindled. I think that really attractive, easy, free transport direct to warm, welcoming centres focussed on specific interests, rather than general activities, could work. I think the training for high level caring staff is very important.

I totally support this organisation and, in creating Citizens' Assemblies for London, this will be high on my personal agenda. Nothing feels better to me than old people living a fulfilled life in the heart of their community.

I have great enthusiasm to commit to an Age Friendly London Action Plan, timetabled and resourced in this next term of office. If I successfully achieve what I plan with Burning Pink, I will be the last Mayor of London and this will be the last time you have to apply to a Mayor in order to achieve your aims.

I agree with everything you have said, and totally agree with the importance of a plan for age-friendly cities, and the great benefits to all Londoners that this can make. A commitment to work in partnership with older Londoner's representatives to achieve this is embedded into Burning Pink's policy, as I explain below.

The work carried out by the Forum to date will provide excellent material which you will be invited to feed in to Citizens' Assemblies.

You may have heard that, if elected, I will get out of people's way so that Londoners themselves have power over what happens through Citizens' Assemblies. I can assure you that, as the Citizens' Assemblies are composed of different groups of people in proportion to the population of the area as a whole, older Londoners will be well represented in each assembly.

London-wide CAs will be designed to provide joined up thinking throughout the city, with more local Citizens' Assemblies to feed in to them and to respond to local problems.

The work of the London Age Friendly Forum will be incorporated into planning, by feeding into the Citizens' Assemblies. Please refer to the document on this website:

<https://www.sortitionfoundation.org/how>

Extract:

**'3. Have those most knowledgeable about, or affected by, the issue address the assembly, bringing in diverse viewpoints and proposals.'**

'An important aspect of any citizens' assembly is making sure assembly members have access to high quality and diverse information from a range of experts and other stakeholders. **This is not easy, but it is possible.** See [What is a citizens' assembly?](#) for more information about this process.'

The people of London know well what they need, and we believe that Citizens' Assemblies are the way to forward.

Please come back with any more questions.

Yours Sincerely,

Valerie Brown

**What Valerie says about Citizens' Assemblies:**

When we work together, we make decisions that can change everything.

Through [Citizens' Assemblies](#) ordinary people with different views get to understand each other, making friends where there was mistrust or even hatred before. Given all the facts, people sort out difficult problems. This has happened again and again.

**If elected, I will hand over power to Citizens' Assemblies. The people of London will decide how to run the city.**

Young people need a future they can look forward to.

It's possible to reduce crime and put an end to poverty. We can respond to the dangers we face from climate change. We can learn from the very best – the best educators, best healthcare, best community organisations.