Summary

- Background to UKAFA
- Purpose of the review
- Approach
- Findings and recommendations
Background to UKAFA

“Empowering Engagement” suggested that national leadership for older people would be provided by a UK wide forum, chaired by the Minister of State for Pensions and the Minister of State for Care Services.

The Government’s response identified key actions which would improve older people’s engagement.

- Establishing the UK Advisory Forum on Ageing.
- Supporting the development of Regional Forums on Ageing in each English region
- Developing communication channels to support and encourage discussion and the sharing of best practice between all forums
Purpose of the Review

- Measure the value that UKAFA adds to understanding the ageing society and the development of relevant policy; and

- Consider whether UKAFA strategically concentrates on the concerns of older people and the wider ageing agenda.
The Approach

- UKAFA members, previous speakers, policy officials from DH, CLG and DWP, and other relevant stakeholders were invited to complete a questionnaire, and the results collated.

- In depth follow-up interviews were conducted with UKAFA members based on the collated responses to the questionnaires.
Findings

What UKAFA does well.

- Increases understanding of the policy process among members and their contacts
- Keeps organisations informed and responds over time to the issues that impact on older people
- Gives members the opportunity to influence Ministers and policy makers
- Terms of reference are fit for purpose
Findings

What UKAFA needs to do better.

- Produce tangible outcomes
- Demonstrate joined-up government through the involvement of other Departments
- Be more diverse and intergenerational
- Communicate more effectively both internally and externally
# Recommendations - Tangible Outcomes

## Findings

### Setting the agenda –

- Regional groups and devolved nations should have standing items within UKAFA
- Members to work together between meetings
- Members to drive outcomes for UKAFA

## Recommendations

- Allocating a set part of the agenda to regional forums and devolved nations has been attempted previously, but met with limited success due to the low level of contributions.
- Suggest a trial period of a year to see if members can make this work
Recommendations - Tangible Outcomes

Finding

Subject area lead -

- Members of UKAFA should take the lead on subject areas, e.g. housing, digital inclusion, loneliness and isolation

Recommendation

- UKAFA members to consider how this might work including which areas individuals might want to lead on.
Recommendations - Tangible Outcomes

Findings

Reporting back –
- Facilitating the achievement of tangible outcomes by reporting back to UKAFA on how discussion has influenced policy/strategy
- Supporting representatives to feedback to their host organisations

Recommendations

- Develop a reporting back process for officials and organisations engaging with UKAFA
- Produce a guide for members advising on how to engage with UKAFA and how to report back to their organisations

Redefining Retirement Division
# Recommendations - Membership

## Findings

**Expand membership -**
- To best represent an ageing society UKAFA should be more diverse and intergenerational, including members that represent other age groups
- To better present joined-up government UKAFA should include representation from more government departments

## Recommendation

- Secretariat to develop proposals, for discussion at a future meeting, on expanding the membership of UKAFA whilst staying within practical limits
Finding

Member profiles -
- Sharing the interests, skills and experiences of individual members would encourage more cross organisational work and raise the profile of UKAFA

Recommendation

- Secretariat to collect profiles of UKAFA members to share
Recommendations - Membership

Findings

Infrequent attendance -
- Some members have a less than 30% attendance record over the last three years
- Should there be a minimum attendance requirement to retain membership?

Recommendations

- Members who have not attended UKAFA for two consecutive meetings should be asked whether they wish to remain a member. If no response, their place should be offered to an equivalent organisation.
- This approach to be included in the membership guide.
Recommendations - Communications

Findings

Raising the profile -
- It is not easy to find clear information on the structure, membership, remit, purpose and scope of UKAFA

Frequency of meetings -
- Opinion was divided on whether the frequency of meetings should increase

Recommendation

- Develop a communications strategy for UKAFA.
- Consider the value of changing the current arrangements on the understanding that there is no additional funding.

Redefining Retirement Division
## Recommendations - Communications

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<tr>
<th>Finding</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Secretariat –</strong></td>
<td>➢ Members to feedback on the services they most value from the Secretariat so work can be prioritised.</td>
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<td>➢ There is less resource available for the Secretariat.</td>
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Next steps

Thoughts and questions?