



SEEFA...

making the South East work for older people -
now and in the future

Who we are

SEEFA is the South East England Forum on Ageing. Its overall aim is to bring people together to influence later life strategies, policies and services to make life better for current and future generations of older people.

Our objectives

- To raise awareness of issues around ageing and older people
- To share good practice and innovation, news and information
- To review and inform strategies and policies that will impact on later life
- To promote the engagement of older people, partners and policy makers
- To challenge ageism and promote social inclusion and independence for older people as citizens

What we do

SEEFA is a network of experts on later life and ageing and all *partners* across the Region are enabled to share views, information, and good practice on a range of key themes. We hold conferences and workshops and sponsor research into older workforce issues. SEEFA has regular dialogue with senior policy makers including Government Ministers and is represented on key national bodies such as The United Kingdom Advisory Forum on Ageing (UKAFA).

We work with academic institutions, national bodies, community networks, third sector organisations and statutory agencies. We bring together people with expertise on later life from a whole range of different backgrounds and fields. Most importantly a number of older people's organisations are part of the SEEFA team and through the creation of our Policy Panel we actively include those who are experts on later life *through their own life experience*. With these connections SEEFA is able to communicate, influence and support the changes needed to address demographic change and take advantage of the opportunities it offers.

Contact: info@seefa.org.uk or visit www.SEEFA.org.uk

Peter Dale, Chair SEEFA

SEEFA's Policy Panel on Later Life and Ageing

SEEFA's Policy Panel aims to work with policy makers, service providers and planners to actively engage with them to make later life better now and in the future.

The Panel comprises people who by virtue of their own life experiences are experts on later life. All Panel members have organisations and local forums sitting behind them and although they speak up for themselves they are informed by a larger constituency of older people. ***This is seen as an example of good practice in engagement.*** We know the best way to ensure good policy decisions is to integrate the perspectives of people who are themselves experts in later life and ageing through their own life experiences.

The Panel meets to consider current policy and respond to consultations and tackles issues such as: how we value the contribution of the older population; attitudes to ageing; social care; inclusive design; housing; health and wellbeing. Examples of good and bad practice are identified and shared. Key messages are formulated which inform SEEFA's work. Using SEEFA's unique network of experts on later life, the key messages are publicised and shared in various ways, including at high profile events such as the Symposium on Health and Social Care in May 2013 at the Palace of Westminster. We link with national level policy makers, including Ministers, via such forums as UKAFA (the UK Advisory Forum on Ageing).

- The Policy Panel comprises people from a diverse range of backgrounds and geographic locations across the South East of England
- The Panel meets to consider and debate current ageing issues. Discussion is in depth, drawing on the experience and expertise of Panel members
- The Panel aims to promote really positive dialogue and make an informed contribution with good quality and timely information which can be used productively
- The Panel acts as a mechanism for communicating information on good practice and research on later life
- The Panel has clear links to Government through SEEFA, the English Forums Chairs Meetings and the UK Advisory Forum on Ageing

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