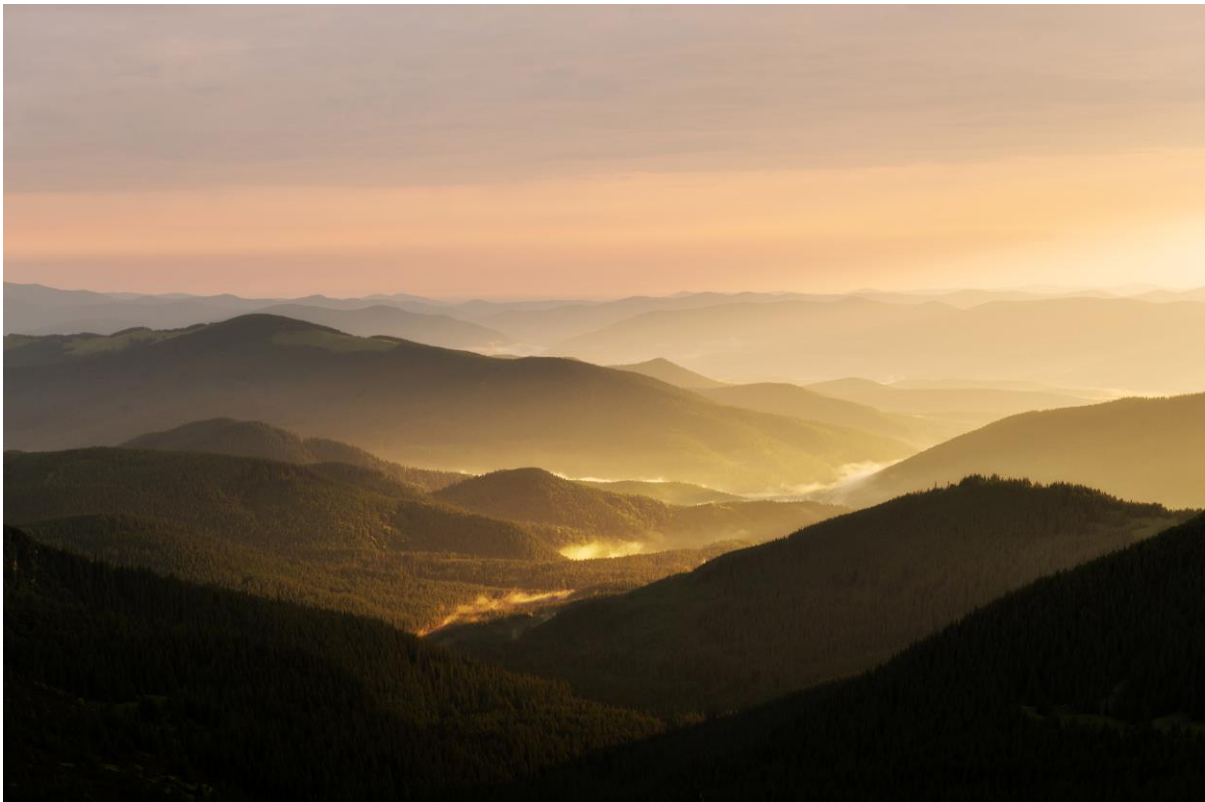




Cynghrair Pobl Hyn Cymru
Cymru Older People's Alliance



Happy Spring!

We hope that you find our bulletin useful, and please let us know if you have anything for inclusion in the next edition.

Here's what we have been up to lately:

- Our good friend Hazel, and the rest of the Swansea Forum successfully presented at the Ageing Fit conference in Lille. It sounded like they all had a great time and we look forward to hearing from them soon. If you can't wait, Rhys added a sneak-peek on [his LinkedIn](#).

- We've been preparing for our April Forum Representative's meeting, with Sandy Clubb from the Future Generations Commissioner.
- Following a letter from COPA to the Minister proposing a National Debate on Age Discrimination in Wales, the Ministerial Advisory Forum on Ageing have agreed to establish a working group to look at this important issue.
- COPA attended the Vale 50+ Forum first 'Have Your Say' social event of the year on Thursday 21st March in Barry



More funding for buses in Wales.

Lee Waters has pledged £39m for the new Bus Network Grant in Wales. The grant will be made available to local authorities to secure services once the Welsh Government's Bus Transition Fund comes to an end on Sunday, March 31.

The new Bus Network Grant will begin on April 1 and run for 12 months.

Local authorities will be required to meet specific conditions to receive funding.

Deputy Minister Lee Waters said:

"The Bus Network Grant will bring stability to the industry as well as increased public control of bus services.

It will also act as a bridge from the emergency funding that has been provided towards bus franchising."

[Read more here](#)



The Lisbon Outcome Statement

The adoption of the Lisbon Outcome Statement by the World Health Organisation (WHO) Europe is a significant step toward addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities of Europe's ageing population. It underscores the importance of a collective effort involving governments, organizations, and individuals from diverse sectors to promote healthy ageing.

The Statement highlights 5 key priorities to advance healthy ageing policies including:

- preventive measures, which focus on preventing health issues and promoting physical, social, and mental well-being throughout life;
- enabling continuous support, by providing accessible, affordable, and high-quality care throughout a person's life, and adapting to changing needs and across different care settings, including long-term care;

- age-friendly environments, by creating communities and cities that empower people of all ages to engage in community life;
- leveraging older people's potential, by recognizing and utilizing the valuable contributions and expertise of older people; and
- data and evidence, which ensures that policy decisions are informed by evidence-based practices.

A delegate from the Older People's Rights Branch of Welsh Government is attending an upcoming webinar to discuss this statement with other colleagues from across Europe.

[Read more here](#)

Mental Health Consultation

The Welsh Government have issued the following to us, "We would like to invite you to help shape our future strategies for mental health and wellbeing, and suicide and self-harm prevention in Wales.

It has been 10 years since our previous strategies were published and we have now published the new Welsh Government Mental Health and Wellbeing, and Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Strategies for Wales for a 16 week public consultation.

The consultation will close on 11 June 2024."

[Respond here](#)

From Wear and Tear To Disrepair

This week Care & Repair launched a new report highlighting the growing levels of disrepair they are seeing amongst their clients.

It is called 'From Wear and Tear to Disrepair' and highlights the causes and impacts of disrepair on health and wellbeing.

In one year, they have seen a 130% increase in charitable-funded works to improve housing conditions.

Care & Repair Agencies have had to add 'Reduction of water penetration, damp and mould' as a specific primary intervention measure outcome, as we were seeing an increase in calls from older people for this type of issue.

[Read the Report Here](#)



Age Cymru Forum Resource Manual

Cymru Older People's Alliance (COPA) are delighted to support the publication of a new Forum Resource Manual for Older People's forums that Age Cymru has developed.

The new Resource Manual is designed to help forums and groups to develop and ensure the views of older people can be heard and acted upon. The Manual provides comprehensive information and advice on how to set up and run a successful forum. Guidance is also included on how to campaign, on publicity, and how to engage with politicians at both a local and national level.

[Read the manual here](#)



Access to GP Practices in Wales

The Older People's Commissioner for Wales has published a new report into the experiences of older people accessing their GP. The report, based on survey responses from over 900 older people living across Wales, highlights a range of concerning issues, including that difficulties accessing GP practices leave many older people suffering in pain, living with deteriorating conditions, feeling worried and anxious, and sometimes even giving up on seeking treatment.

Two-thirds of older people said they find it difficult to get the type of appointment they want at their GP practice, the same number who said they find it difficult to contact or get information from their GP practice.

The Commissioner is calling for action from health boards, GP practices, the Welsh Government and other key organisations, focused on:

Building relationships of trust with older people and improving continuity of care

- Removing practical barriers and providing the support people need
- Modernising systems and delivering against existing standards

- Improving wider infrastructure – e.g. public transport to practices, planning regulations.

[Read the Report Here](#)



This e-mail has been sent to rachel.dawson@agecymru.org.uk, [click here to unsubscribe](#).

GB