



CYMRU OLDER PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

October 2018

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Foreword by Chair

I am delighted to be introducing this, our second Annual Report, to update you on what COPA has achieved over the last year and our priorities for the next year. Over the next year we will build on our membership model at local, regional and national levels to drive up membership and improve the impact we can have working for older people across Wales. We have prioritised trying to engage with fora who do not currently have voting members and plan to bid to the Big Lottery Fund, Awards for All to help us to carry this work forward.

We are working hard to develop our capacity to work and communicate bilingually. Two-way communication with the local and regional forums and other older people's organisations remains a priority for us, and next year much of our energy and resources will be invested in developing Regional Groups.

We have had a busy and productive year, developing ourselves as an independent Charity governed by a Board of Trustees, supported by our Voting members. We now have an agreed Business plan, a Code of Conduct for trustees and robust financial management and forecasting in place. We will be launching our new website at the AGM.

We have a new Honorary Secretary, Andrea Nicholas-Jones who some of you may remember from her Welsh Government days, and a new co-opted Trustee for North Wales, Sue Wright, who has a long and respected career in statutory services for older people and the third sector in North Wales. The new Board of Trustees has met regularly over the last year, and we have formed two sub groups to look at Finance and Communication.

These are challenging times. Austerity measures are having a disproportionate impact on older people, and COPA must ensure that we are centre stage in any and all discussions at Welsh Government which impact on us.

The Welsh Government is currently undertaking a review of how it engages with older people in Wales. COPA is involved in this and we are working to influence how Welsh Government supports older people. We are meeting with the other 4 Welsh Older People's organisations to establish how we can best work together for older people.

We have sent in responses to a number of key consultations that impact on older people and the communities in which they live. We are participating in the work programme to develop an Action Plan to implement the Strategy for Older People Phase 3. We have produced and shared with our members for approval, two position papers on Paying for Care and Access to the NHS for Older People.

COPA is a group that has existed under different names and in different forms since 2001 working under the umbrella of the Welsh Governments' Strategy for Older People in Wales. As such we have a strong tradition of influencing policy and practice for older people in Wales. COPA is now a genuinely independent organisation – a voice for older people lead by older people. COPA becoming a registered charity operating within the terms of charity law is a significant change and as a charity we will be able to apply for and attract funding from a variety of sources that previously have not been open to us. Whilst it is hoped to continue to attract Government support, our aim is to become self-sufficient over time.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has helped COPA on this important journey including Members past and present and the Board of Trustees.

Gaynor Davies

16 October 2018

Introduction

1. The year of 2017 - 2018 was a significant and challenging period for Cymru Older People's Alliance (COPA). This Report is the first formal Annual Report as required under Charity Law.
2. We were all saddened by the loss of our good friend and colleague Brenda Williams on 19th July 2018 at the age of 91 following a short illness. She was a founder member of Taff Ely 50+Forum since it was formed in 1994. In 1998 Better Government for Older People was established. Rhondda Cynon Taf was selected as one of the two pilot schemes in Wales as it was felt that because Older People's Forums were already established in Rhondda Cynon Taf that would help with the consultation process. Brenda was chosen to represent older people throughout the UK at the United Nations World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid in 2002. She was an active member of the Welsh Senate for Older People and Cymru Older People's Alliance where she made sure the voices of older people in Rhondda Cynon Taf were heard.

Context

3. COPA has been recognised by Welsh Government as the national group for older people's 50+ forums in Wales and they have provided small scale development funding since 2014 and are presently providing resources for the changes underway to ensure COPA becomes a stronger and more democratic organisation.
4. COPA brings together the views, opinions and concerns of local older people's fora and organisations to the national, all- Wales level. This provides a strong, credible and coherent voice to Government that truly represents what older people want and need. COPA is a group that has existed in different forms and titles since 2001 working under the umbrella of the Welsh Government's Strategy for Older People. As such it has a strong tradition of influencing policy and practice for older people in Wales. It is now a genuinely independent organisation – a voice for older people lead by older people. COPA will challenge ageism and lobby Government nationally and locally so older people are properly consulted and involved in decisions that affect them and their community, built on the evidence of what is most effective in giving everybody the opportunity to age well.

5. The future direction of COPA had been agreed following extensive engagement with Members and older people's groups across all parts of Wales, through Workshops and was agreed at the 2017 AGM. We now have an agreed Business Plan. COPA Board members and the Honorary Secretary have also engaged with Older Peoples Forums during 2018 to update and debate the future of COPA directly with older people.

The Board

6. The Board – see appendix 1 – has meet regularly over the last 12 months with structured agendas and now have an agreed Business Plan. The last 12 months COPA has worked hard to devise, debate and agree a raft of detailed policies and other documents to fulfil Charity Commission requirements.

Reporting on Key Objectives

7. The COPA Board have addressed a wide range of issues over the last year and a short summary of the action taken is provided for the main objectives in the agreed Business Plan for 2017-18.

Constitution

8. In August 2017, the (then) COPA Board of Trustees agreed for the first time a formal Constitution to shape its future. There has been no change to this constitution over the last year.

Membership

9. The process to democratically elect COPA members at a regional and national level was agreed to create a democratic and representative organisation and move away from a more ad hoc and inconsistent selection route to membership and leadership. In each Council area the Older Peoples Fora or Group/s will appoint 2 members to the COPA regional committee. Then each regional committee agree 2 of its members to stand as COPA Trustees. All 44 regional members (i.e. 22 x 2) will be voting COPA members and attend the AGM but only 12 (i.e. 2 from each of 6 regions) will be trustees. The normal term of office for a voting member will be 2 years however people may stand for re-election at the end of each term of office. A Voting mechanism was devised and

communicated in the event of competition for Trustee status in any region. Following the initial election of the Board in November 2017, Trustees decided that further expansion of the Trustee posts would be considered as part of its on-going Review of Structures including regional boundaries and when we have at least two thirds of Voting Members in each region.

COPA Members Meetings

10. The focus for meeting over the last year has been on Trustees pulling together the Governance arrangements required as a new Charity and on setting the direction of travel. We have developed a website, agreed a Business plan, agreed a strategy for engaging with fora who are not currently members, worked with fora to facilitate new voting members being nominated, agreed a Code of Conduct for Trustees and developed and consulted on two policy position papers.

Communications

11. A small Communications Sub Group was created, led by the Vice Chair, to ensure that there was an effective process to provide information about the changes COPA were undertaking to older people's forums and other stakeholders across Wales. A COPA Narrative briefing and Frequently Asked Questions brief were produced together with a new leaflet and logo. A COPA Newsletter has been produced with articles from Caerphilly 50+ Forum, Llandudno Older Peoples Forum, Care and Repair Cymru re the Attic Project, Ageing Well in Wales and the new Commissioner for Older People. We recognise the importance of the Welsh language and are working to develop a Welsh Language Policy and access sufficient funding to ensure future communications will be presented in a bilingual format.
12. Meetings have been held and events attended in Neath Port Talbot, Merthyr, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Conwy and Denbighshire, Torfaen and Newport. As a result, we now have one new voting member from Merthyr, and one from Rhondda Cynon Taf, two new voting members from Newport, and two previous voting members from Conwy have been re-engaged. Carmarthenshire Forum has also confirmed its commitment to re-engage with COPA in the future and we have two new voting members from that forum also.

Age Friendly Communities

13. As part of the Ageing Well in Wales Programme led by the Commissioner for Older People in Wales, COPA co-produced with the Commission “Making Wales a nation of age-friendly communities” - this guide has recently been revised and will be re-launched with joint COPA branding for local communities who want to act to become more age-friendly. It provides external resources and it is designed as a standalone tool to be used by communities across Wales. The model presented in this guide will be supported through the development of a national Age-Friendly Recognition scheme that is being jointly developed by COPA and the Ageing Well Network. An updated version of the guide is being published in October.

Joint Working with the Older Peoples Commissioner

14. As well as on-going joint activities, the Chair has met with the new Commissioner for Older People in Wales, Helena Herklots to welcome in her new role and to discuss the new direction of COPA and other issues impacting on older people. The Ageing-well Programme has also been an area of excellent collaboration with the Commission which we will build on. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous Commissioner Sarah Rochira and her team for the invaluable support given to COPA over her term of office.

Establishing a Dialogue with Government

15. The Board has had a good on-going relationship with Welsh Government as part of its funding arrangements. This has enabled direct representations on issues such as the future of the Strategy for Older People in Wales, the Commissioner for Older People recruitment, isolation and loneliness of older people, transport, health and social services as well as how national older people’s organisations in Wales are funded.

Finances

16. A finance sub group has been established chaired by the treasurer which has met to discuss the current grant funding and options for securing additional funding for the future.
17. There is a proposed application for the Big Lottery Awards for All called "Reaching Out" being considered which will help us to achieve our ambition to secure better representation and working arrangements in North Wales. In addition, a second bid to develop the Regional Boards will be considered after the AGM.
18. Total funding for 2018-19 agreed by Welsh Government is £12,800 comprising £8,400 for meetings and travel and £4,400 for general expenses. There are robust and effective arrangements for the monitoring and accountability for this expenditure through policies and processes agreed by the Board. One of the co-opted Trustees is Treasurer and oversees these arrangements and reports to the Board on a regular basis. Any risks to the achievement of objectives and related expenditure are identified and addressed on an on-going basis through our Risk Management policy.
19. A partnership agreement between Age Cymru and COPA has been established with an agreement that Age Cymru transfers the funding phased to match the Welsh Government payment schedule to Age Cymru, to COPA

Conclusions

20. COPA's strongest public benefit is enabling older people to have the confidence and access to change the conversation about ageing in Wales to one that is lead from the experience of older people about their needs and what works best for them. Self-determination by older people is an important principle for us. The first steps have been taken and COPA has now established its policies and processes to match the challenging requirements of being a charitable organisation to enable these aims to be achieved.

21. It is vital over the next year that we work to improve communications, to raise awareness of and interaction with and within COPA as the national body for local fora and groups. COPA will want to be able to influence how decisions affecting older people are made and ensure their voice is heard at the initial planning stage of national policies and initiatives not when it is all tied up and settled. This includes improved COPA dialogue with National Assembly for Wales Members – AMs - to raise their awareness of issues impacting on older people. COPA are not in any way a politically motivated organisation – it is entirely neutral politically but it is essential that all sides understand the facts of the matter hearing it directly from older people.

22. Apart from the “business” objectives of being an effective charity, COPA will also need to “lift its head” to a broader agenda of influencing the age sector. COPA have good links with the other older people’s organisations through Trustees but we have wanted to improve partnership working so that there is a strong dialogue and interchange of information with other bodies and there are consistent messages about what needs to change to improve the lives of older people. COPA believe that Working in Partnership with other older people’s organisations is the only way forward and will always aim to co-operate and engage with other older people’s organisation to ensure a coherent voice is heard from older people in Wales. The new COPA trustees have met with the National Pensioners Convention (NPC) Wales, Active Wales and the Older People’s Senate to start this process. COPA now has an agreed partnership arrangement with the Senate, and will enter into an informal working agreement with Active Wales, we are in positive dialogue with NPC and will meet Pensioners Forum Wales (PFW) in November to start discussions.

23. COPA has made significant progress over the last year but we cannot sit back and rest on our laurels. We must find ways and funding to support the development of the Regional Structure for COPA if we are truly to achieve our ambitions for the future to provide a coherent and credible national voice for older people to improve the services and support they receive. To achieve this, we will work with local fora and other groups who represent people

over the age of 50, other national and regional older peoples organisations and the public sector to find new ways of engaging older people in Wales so that there is a genuine dialogue about the services and support they need to remain independent and to promote a good quality of life

COPA Board, October 2018

Appendix 1

The Board

Gaynor Davies – Chair	gaynor888@btinternet.com
Phyllis Preece – Vice Chair	phyllispreece@btinternet.com
Ken Davies – Treasurer	gaynor888@btinternet.com
Lin Finn	lynfinn08@gmail.com
Sue Jones	sueanthoniajones@btinternet.com
Hazel Maguire	hazelcymru@yahoo.co.uk
Steve Milsom	milsomsg@gmail.com
Angela Tritschler	angela_tritschler@yahoo.co.uk
Sue Wright (from January 2018)	sueandbrent25@hotmail.com
Dr Ralph Stevens (until June 2018)	
Andrea Nicholas-Jones – Hon Secretary - (from January 2018)	andreanj@btinternet.com

Appendix 2

COPA ACCOUNTS – FINANCIAL YEAR 2017-18

(Information supplied by Age Cymru who handled COPA Finances in that period)

		September 6000	October 3000	November	December	January 3000	February	March	Total 12000
	Income								
	Expenditure								
41905	Grants to non-network partners	ZZZZZ						7,518	
48955	Venue Hire	ZZZZZ				1,000			
57705	Meeting Costs	ZZZZZ	23			176			
58055	Stationery	ZZZZZ	83			29			
58255	Postage	ZZZZZ	29						
60805	Travel	ZZZZZ	857			1,820	113		
	Hotels/Overnight								
60905	Accommodation	ZZZZZ	79			125			
60955	Subsistence	ZZZZZ	51			114			12,017
			1,122			2,059	113	7518	