

Cymru Older People's Alliance Board of Trustees' Meeting 22th January 2021 10.00 - 11.45 via Zoom/Telephone

Attending: Steve Milsom (Chair), Ralph Stevens, Lyn Finn, Angela Tritschler, Gaynor Davies, Andrew Hinchliff, Sue Jones, Rachel Dawson (Minutes), Kathy Lye.

Apologies: Hazel Maguire.

0.1 Declarations of Interest
None.

1. Appointment of COPA Board Officers for 2021

Our COPA Constitution says we must reappoint Board Officers (especially Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer) after the AGM.

Steve has put himself forward for **Chair** with the caveat that we will start recruiting for a new Chair before the next AGM.

Nominated by Andrew and seconded by Ralph.

Steve was supported by all of the group and re-elected as Chair.

Ralph put himself forward as **Vice Chair** with the caveat that he will be seeking to put Caerphilly forum first to increase engagement with the forum, so he will have less time to dedicate to the role.

Nominated by Andrew and seconded by Angela.

Angela suggested that she could stand as **Treasurer** with Gaynor as Deputy Treasurer so they can work together and Gaynor can transfer the banking details over to Angela in time for Gaynor's plan to step down as a Trustee in autumn.

Nominated by Lyn, and seconded by Andrew.

Lyn put herself forward for **Events Officer**. She will work closely with Kathy and Rachel but it is good to have link to the Board so that events are independently led by COPA.

Nominated by Sue and seconded by Gaynor.

Ralph put himself forward for **Communications Officer**, with the same caveat as above.

Nominated by Lyn and seconded by Gaynor.

Partnerships Officer

Sue suggested that we could have north and south roles because of the difficulties in getting across Wales.

Sue put herself forward for the Partnerships Officer for north Wales, supported by Andrew.

Nominated by Angela and seconded by Steve

Angela put herself forward for Partnerships Officer for south Wales, supported by Hazel

Nominated by Lyn and seconded by Gaynor

Policy Officer

Steve would like to do this when we have a new Chair, and it will be very helpful to reduce the new Chair's workload.

Nominated by Angela and seconded by Andrew

Compliance

It was agreed to leave this role for a new Officer from the forthcoming recruitment of new Trustees. Kathy Lye can support as she does this with another small charity

1. COPA AGM 21 January 2021- Analysis and Lessons Learnt

Ralph fed back that he felt it went very well. Rachael Nicholson was excellent, time-efficient, and her presentation fitted exactly what we wanted. Ralph felt that the meeting was effective and efficient, and we managed people dialling in well.

Lesson for going forwards: Planning the work in advance has worked. We gave people time to adjust and lots of communication, and the Board all worked together. At times it felt like over communication but it really worked. This should be the template for further online events.

Gaynor fed back that she thought it was excellent and that she loved the Elvis impersonator.

Andrew commented that the AGM is usually a considerable pull on our finances. This could be a good template for another AGM style event in the Autumn. We can communicate how well this one went to secure even better attendance/engagement.

Steve reflected that we did unfortunately have to restrict discussion because of time. It would have been nice to give more time to debate. People should have the option to have their say at the AGM.

Andrew suggested an interim meeting on Zoom where people can properly have their say.

Ralph said that he felt regular VM/FR meetings will allow people to have their say. Nothing should be a huge surprise at the AGM.

Lyn said that sometimes when we give too much time people speak just because they have the opportunity to speak rather than because they have something they need to contribute.

Sue shared some other experiences of best practice with online AGMs. She experienced a breakout room with smaller group and then one Board Member to discuss specific issues. Could we do that?

2. Finance

Gaynor set out paper of revised Expenditure Plan 2020-2021. She doesn't want to go too low because worried about missing expenditure.

Andrew: When things are better, we need to factor in going to visit forums. Should allow for it. This is an action for the 2021-2022 budgeting plan.

Gaynor introduced the Forum Start Up Grant. This started with Lyn's idea for an afternoon tea. Facilitating their start up with whatever their local circumstances would suit. Grant of up to £200 per forum, apart from in exceptional circumstances.

Kathy: We can adapt the Winter Celebration Grant Agreement. Usually about £200-£250. This is a very simple form and agreement.

The Communications group and Partnerships Officers will work on this.

Ralph spoke about finding free premises when we can meet together.

Lyn: We could work this in to the Age Friendly Communities agenda. We can ask venues, what are you doing on AFC? This will help us with restarting our forums. We have to get a wider reach and the backing of the local authority/local councillors.

Sue Jones fed back that she would like to see Age Cymru take the lead with the forums in Anglesey as her council are so hit and miss.

Steve responded that Age Cymru partners are separate charities subject to different pressure on funding. There are and will be constraints on charities to start new things.

Sue commented that Age Cymru in Anglesey have a great café which is a community resource, it would be good to meet there.

Action: Work with Kathy on forum grant scheme and conditions. Work via email and then at a future meeting.

Discussed the availability of printing through Age Cymru which is automatically paid for using a COPA code.

Discussed LGBT event. Perhaps we should think about this for 2022 if we want to meet in person. Andrew would like to be involved in the planning. Andrew made the point that LGBT people are often geographically spread out and isolated in rural regions, so perhaps holding an event online might be more accessible for LGBT+ people in rural parts of Wales. Rachel would be happy to help with inviting speakers and entertainment, and would feel confident in arranging break out rooms.

At the moment there is no suggestion that the Welsh Government want to take money back. It would be too difficult to claw it back from all the charities.

Our projected spend is £10,865, and we hold £8000 in reserve. Further figures in the paper.

We shall come back to this in April. Perhaps a change in government in May could change things.

Steve presented the risk register, which was sent in advance as a paper. There is no change in profile other than the risk of Covid. It was agreed.

Engagement with forums is becoming a lighter yellow – edging closer to green!

3. To approve minutes of Board Meetings 18 December 2020

Agreed the minutes as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

Gaynor pointed out that Rachel omitted to mark her action as done when it had been done. Will correct this.

4. Any other urgent business (short updates)

Agree Position Paper on Social Care

Couple of comments have been taken into account. One from Ralph, one from Judy Phipps. There is now a white paper on rebalancing social care which talks about giving stronger legal status to regional partnerships and when it is appropriate for councils to deliver rather than commission domiciliary care. There are viability issues for the sector. Where there is a likelihood of domiciliary care or care homes closing, the council have duty of care.

Ralph would like to add “well paid” to the front page under professionalism. This was already covered in detail in the final paragraph and we could not change the quoted text referenced on the front page

Clarified typo on isolation.

Ralph fed back that perhaps we are being too ambitious. Can we see truly see these things coming into force in next 10 years? Steve said that we’re not saying anything too dissimilar to other bodies. The Government are looking at new funding systems. This is one of the unsolved policy issues of successive governments.

There was some discussion about the long delay in finding a sustainable model for funding and paying for care. Whilst there are challenges, it was agreed we should “aim high” because then decision makers will look for the ideal. The government should under promise and over deliver. We should ask for the best.

There was a good debate about the history of this issue and potential solutions. Our paper says that locally delivered social care is better than one nationally structured but there are no obvious or easy answers to the dilemmas of paying for and funding social care. This was an issue for further discussion by the Board where COPA need to be clear about the principles, we want to see addressed rather than the detailed model which requires Government financial experts to design.

The Board were happy to agree the position paper for publication.

Steve will circulate the White Paper for Trustees to read.

- **Business Plan**

The business plan previously circulated for comment was ratified.

- **Age Friendly Communities (AFC)**

Steve has been invited as Chair to join the Commissioner's AFC Steering Group and will report back from Helena's meeting on 26 January. Andrew and Ralph would like to be involved in COPAs contribution to developing AFCs. We can work on AFCs as a charity and will discuss further with Forum Representatives at the meeting on the 19th February.

- **Recruitment Plan for Trustees**

Elected members will need to be recruited from specific regions: Cardiff and the Vale and North Wales. We should recruit the co-opted members first and then recruit the elected trustees. A recruitment process for co-opted Trustees is being developed. A new administrative procedure will be needed

- **Consultation on Strategy for Ageing Society**

15th March is deadline. There is a Forum Representative meeting on the 19th February so can discuss then.

- **Response on Reform of Forums**

Ralph and Steve are meeting Wyn Llewellyn in early February to discuss how we can maximise engagement on the consultation questions about the future of forums We will talk about how forums can respond to this on the 19 February Meeting.

Action - We will invite Chris Baker to the next meeting in March as there is so much to discuss in the February FR meeting.

- **Web site articles**

The article by Hazel on volunteering has been well received.

It would be great to have one a month from each of the forum. Ralph clarified what we need from people with regards to the articles.

Steve to circulate when available minutes of the Cross-Party Group on Intergenerational Solidarity – **Done**

Meeting Dates:

Board – Third Friday of every month

Voting Representatives – Second Thursday.

However, in February they will both be on Friday the 19th

RD to send around dates.

Actions

Board to discuss funding of and paying for social care

Steve to circulate the White Paper on Rebalancing the Social Care Sector

Invite Chris Baker to the next FR meeting in March

RD to take a look at statements made by the Older People's Commissioner and see if they can be used for the website. **Not just the Commissioner but also Age Cymru partners, Age Connects etc.**

Kathy, Ralph and Steve to meet about recruitment plan for new Trustees and preferred options now agreed- **Ongoing**

Steve and Ralph to take forward proposals for restructuring the COPA Board over the next 12 months **Ongoing**

Ralph and Steve to develop proposals for further discussion and sharing with Voting Members about securing a good response to the Welsh Government consultation questions on the future of Forums – **Ralph and Steve talking to Wyn about how best to get a good response from forums to the strategy consultation. Will produce something for the FR meeting on 19th Feb.**

Andrew, Ralph and Steve to meet on application of GDPR by Councils in relation to some Forums database. Ralph has sourced helpful Guidance we could consider

Kathy/Rachel to contact Board Members re alternative contact information – retained on a confidential basis - **Ongoing**

Steve and Gaynor to produce proposals for expenditure from the 2020-21 budget for discussion at January Board meeting. – **This had already been done!**

The Board to hold a more substantive discussion in the Spring about the strategic direction of COPA and how additional operational capacity might be secured in the future – **Ongoing**