

The bulletin of **Future East**
the Forum on Ageing in the east of England

Issue , January 2012

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FUTURE EAST
meeting the challenges of an ageing society

The Hot Topic



Care workers... who cares?

The next FE cross-sector workshop is on 13th March and will explore aspects of how to maintain quality of care delivered by care workers to individuals in their own homes. This builds on our previous work on financial safeguarding (**Whose money is it anyway?** See the report on our website).

Increasingly care is delivered in the home by those who are outside the family, and strong relationships can be built between cared and cared for. How can older people get the best out of their care workers? How can we ensure care workers are properly respected themselves?

Our workshop will be looking at quality in the care system, at a time when the government is reviewing social care policy. Please contact Marion if you would like an invitation to this event on 13th March.



UKAFA

You will find on our website now has a UKAFA tab, where we put information about the UK Advisory Forum on Ageing. Future East's representative to UKAFA is Ron Douglas, and below is an extract from his report to Future East about the discussion on **Social Care**.

'Paul Burstow MP (Minister of State for social care) opened the session briefly and introduced Alex Fox of the Department of Health and prevention service and Gordon Morris of Age UK on financial services. They also spoke briefly and asked the groups to discuss.

- *The type of interventions and services required*
- *Ideas on changes in later life*

It soon became clear that most people agreed there is a need for a FREE NATIONAL CARE SERVICE paid for through general taxation- there was not much interest in financial services. The discussion was very much the same as we have at Future East- concern at the treatment of frail elderly people, personal experience of the problems.

As far as financial incentives are concerned, opting to delay receipt of the state pension means an increase of 1 per cent for each five weeks delayed (i.e. 10.4 per cent for each full year). But if you die before you chosen date of retirement, the pension reverts to the state unless you have a surviving spouse or civil partner who "may be entitled to extra pension" when they claim their own state pension.

When Paul Burstow spoke at the end he said "As far as a Tax Funded Care Service is concerned you had better

get used to the idea- it is not going to happen!" It was suggested that he look up the Parliamentary debates in Hansard before the state pension was agreed and before the NHS was founded- many said it was not going to happen- but it did."

Ron Douglas



Health and Well Being Boards

It seems there are plenty of concerns about representation on Health and Well Being boards, There are two items on our website which you might find useful for further information. One is a briefing produced by Age UK which suggests there is some flexibility in Board membership.

The other is from the Local Government Group with further details. <http://futureeast.org.uk/information/>



IT problems?

i-Trust (part of COVER charity) is currently providing a helpline for IT problems to community groups and charities in the east of England. The helpline will be free until the end of July 2012. If you are a committee member of a voluntary or community organisation who uses your computer when working for the group, you may qualify.

The calls are free and our helpdesk team are on hand to provide basic telephone, or in some cases remote, support as well as answer general IT related queries and offer advice on IT related matters.

If unable to offer direct help the helpdesk team will sign post you to further sources of help and advice.

Phone 0800 028 0085



FE website

Putting information on Future East website excludes people without internet access, and I regret this. But we're aware that FE needs to share information as widely and effectively as it can. We are therefore trying to use our website to do this, but our use of it is still under development!

We now have a section on our website for 'news'. Most 'news' items are removed after 2 weeks, so you may wish to browse our website from time to time.

<http://futureeast.org.uk/news/>



Housing satisfaction in Thurrock

Thurrock Over 50s Forum (TOFF) was one of the forums chosen to undertake a short-term peer review of a project by Ridgeway for FirstStop and Elderly Accommodation Council (EAC). The broad aims of the project were to recruit and facilitate forums to participate in peer review, in order to raise the quality of services, and to investigate training needs/options for older people to give information and advice on housing options to their peers. See FE website link above



Later Life newsletter

Later Life, is the Department of Work and Pensions

newsletter. The January edition can be downloaded from our website using the link in blue above.



Inside news from Future East

We are delighted that Future East is to continue to receive a basic grant from Department of Work and Pensions for the next 2 years, April 2012-14. This means that we can properly plan work and activities over a longer period.

The grant is to ensure that the views of older people at a local level are systematically captured to inform Government at all levels.

To do this we are dependent on you, our readers, to let us know when something occurs which has wider implications beyond your locality, or talk to your FE locality representative about something which is happening in your area. .

The best way to do this is to contact any of our members, or invite your locality representative to visit your group. If you don't know them personally, leave me a phone message or send me an email and I'll put you in touch with them. Their names are always in the newsletter on the final page. If it's important to you, we want to know.

'Retired'? Ask a busy person...

We recently did a survey to find out more about those older people who are on our on our mailing list. Many of you are involved in so many different activities it would be impossible to count them, so we abandoned this idea very quickly!

Instead we asked if you were members of local older people forums and influencing groups. We have now recorded that there are 6000 forum members in the region. It's an impressive number but I'm sure there

are other influencing groups that we are not yet in touch with. Please help us by passing the newsletter on to anyone who might be interested to receive this bulletin and encourage them sign up.

Stephanie Randolph,
Locality
Representative for
Bedford



John Parker,
Locality
Representative for
Cambridgeshire



Future East is the English Forum on Ageing (East) which provides a unified voice on the ageing population and change issues, and uses its collective influence to improve the homes, communities, neighbourhoods and lives of the growing number of older people in the east of England

We try to make our papers and reports available in full on our website
www.futureeast.org.uk

Future East Members

Older People Locality Representatives

John Parker (Cambs),	Ruth Featherstone (Central Beds)
Maureen Montgomery (Essex),	Sheila Hogan (Herts.),
Janett Scott (Luton),	Graeme Duncan (Norfolk),
Peterborough (vacant),	Joan Cook (Suffolk),
Gerry Calder (Thurrock)	Southend (vacant)
Stephanie Randolph (Bedford Borough)	

Voluntary and Statutory Sector representatives, Attending Members

Age UK Eastern Region,	Louise Watts
Age Concern Eastern	Michael Bond
COVER	Andrew Cogan
DWP	Russell Taylor
Equalities & Human Rights Commission	Ruth Barnett
EROPAG	Emily Millington-Smith
National Housing Federation	Lizzie Clifford
National Pensioners Convention	Ron Douglas
TPAS	Peter Codd
The Pension Service	Sally Cornwell

Honorary members

Peter Coleing	Pauline Weinstein
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Best wishes for 2012!

This is the bulletin from Future East. I'd be delighted to hear from you if you want to find out more, or to go on our mailing list.

Marion Bailey

marion@futureeast.org.uk, or answering machine on 07875 120598

**Next FE Members' Meeting is Tuesday 7th February 2012
at Orchard Park Community Centre Cambridge**

Future East -Working together for an older and wiser future
Bi-monthly bulletin- subscribe with marion@futureeast.org.uk