

Annual Report



2018 – 2019

Welcome

Welcome to ROPF's annual report for the period September 2018 – August 2019

The aim of ROPF is to provide a voice for older people from all our communities. We work closely with strategic partners from the statutory and voluntary sectors to ensure that older people's views and ideas are listened to and taken into account in the planning and delivery of services. As members of the Forum we are all older people ourselves active within our communities, giving our time and energy on behalf of those older people whose voices are seldom heard.

At our AGM November 2018 our founder member and long-standing chair Liz Booth retired. She was the figurehead of ROPF and dedicated hours to representing the forum and the views of older people at numerous meetings and events.

ROPF was fortunate in having two new committee members: myself, Bill Koncowoj and David Vickers who as chair and Vice chair and with the rest of the committee, have

helped to build on and develop Liz's legacy with new members joining us and our profile increasing.

This report highlights the key activities and projects we have been involved in to meet our aim of voice and influence:-

1. Members Meetings
2. Projects
3. Events and activities
4. Our finances

We would like to thank Age UK Rotherham for their continued support and for allowing the forum free use of meeting space (outside members meetings) when needed.

Bill Koncowoj (chair)

Committee Members

Bill Koncowoj	(Chair)
Val Lindsay	(Vice-chair)
David Vickers	(vice-chair)
Betty Graham	Committee member

1. Members Meetings

Our members meetings take place on the second Wednesday of every month (except August) from 10 AM-12 PM at the Talbot Lane centre. Midpoint in the year we took the decision to move the start time 10.15 a.m. to accommodate those coming on public transport.

The meetings are open to any older person who has an interest in the issues being discussed.

The meetings are an opportunity for consultation and debate on a range of topics of relevance to older people in Rotherham. This year we have once again been fortunate to have a number of interesting speakers.

Our speakers since September 2018 were:

- ❖ Iain Cloke (AUKR)
- ❖ Helen Wyatt (RCCG)
- ❖ Lucy Hagan (RMBC)
- ❖ Councillor Sarah Allan
- ❖ Alan Pogorzelec (RMBC)
- ❖ Nicola Phillips (RMBC)
- ❖ Tom Archer (Sheffield Hallam)
- ❖ Jo Faray (VAR)
- ❖ Chief superintendent Steve Chapman (SYP)
- ❖ Claire Wardle (RMBC)
- ❖ FOERS funeral directors
- ❖ Louise Smith (RMBC)
- ❖ Sam Watton (Jordan's solicitors)
- ❖ Simeon Leach (RMBC)
- ❖ Linda Mayo (library services)

The topics and issues we have discussed have been very wide-ranging including:

- ✓ Home Care
- ✓ the effects of changes and reductions in bus routes.
- ✓ National medicines policies
- ✓ seating in the larger stores
- ✓ the great door knock campaign.
- ✓ "5 ways to well-being" mental health initiative.
- ✓ Marking 100 years since women were awarded the vote.
- ✓ Age UK Rotherham's strategic forward plan.
- ✓ BBC TV licensing fee
- ✓ licensing of sex establishments
- ✓ crisis in social care
- ✓ the public realm
- ✓ Be cancer safe
- ✓ extended GP opening hours
- ✓ Review of Polling Stations.
- ✓ Funeral planning
- ✓ Bereavement Services
- ✓ Wills and power of attorney

- ✓ Active Solutions developing project.
- ✓ Consultation on library services

Members attended: RMBC town centre planning subgroup; Age Friendly Rotherham Conference; Rotherham CCG AGM; Crossroads AGM; Age UK AGM; National Pensioners Convention

We met: our MP's and elected members.

2. Projects and Consultations

Getting Our Voices Heard

ROPF, RPAG and Age UK had joint meetings talk about making sure Rotherham's older people continue to have their voices heard. We discussed the slightly different roles of each group with a tentative discussion around possibly ROPF and RPAG joining at some point.

Both groups acknowledged the difficulties in getting more older people to give their time to give older people a voice.

Women's stories project

with a small pot of funding from the Louder Together Partnership we

developed a conversation toolkit and gathered stories from older people about their experiences of growing up or of coming to Rotherham.

The project dominated in a lovely event at the Clifton Park garden rooms where we shared stories, pictures and items.



Campaigns

Standing up for Sitting down to ROPF members raised with the forum difficulties that they and many older and disabled people have visiting the larger stores, particularly at the retail park. This is because there is no seating within the store for people to take a rest before finishing their shopping and going back on the bus. We have continued to push this campaign throughout the year.

Members formally contributed to a number of key campaigns:

- consultation on RMBC's provision of care for those at home.

- RMBC’s leisure and cultural strategy.
- Wrote letters to our local MPs regarding the social care Green paper
- Plans for the redevelopment of the town centre.
- Strategic Housing market assessment research

- Continue our campaign for seating in big stores.
- Continue our discussions with Rotherham Pensioners Action Group and Age UK Rotherham about how we can ensure older people in Rotherham continue to have voice and influence.
- Apply for continued funding for our day-to-day running costs and for development worker time.
- Try to strengthen and diversify our membership, particularly to attract new committee members.

3. Activities and Events

Rotherham show, September 2018

this year we took the decision to not attend the show. Usually we join age UK Rotherham on the day but they had made the difficult decision to not attend.

Older People’s Day

Our 2018 older People's day event was again held at Rotherham Minster and proved a great success. Thanks to all our partners who attended with lots of useful information and advice

Our plans 2019 - 2020

Over the coming 12 months we look forward to building on our achievements and continuing to develop ROPF and secure its future.

4. Accounts 18-19

Category	Exp.	Income	Balance
Opening balance			£4,018.99
Volunteer expenses	£217.50		
Stationary	£107.33		
Printing	£180		
Photocopying	£44.78		
Venue hire	£230	£80	
Development work	£2,030.49		
Grant		£4,000	
Closing balance			£5,288.69



For more information contact AgeUK
Rotherham's advice line:

01709 835214

Email: Rotherhamopf@outlook.com

www.ageuk.org.uk/Rotherham/ROPF

Twitter: [@_ropf](https://twitter.com/_ropf)