Welcome to the September 2014 edition of the Age UK London Equalities Bulletin, dealing with the challenges and opportunities of working with London’s diverse older people. This bulletin is provided as part of our Fit 4 Purpose age sector capacity building project funded by London Councils.

Consultation on a Global Convention on older people’s rights

The Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) is launching a consultation to gather the views of older persons on the main elements of a new convention on the rights of older people to provide input to the next session of the UN Open Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) and use the results for advocacy purposes. You are kindly asked to disseminate the attached short questionnaire to your members and contacts as well as reply to it individually by the 10th October, sending your replies to Nena Georgantzi, nena.georgantzi@age-platform.eu

Please note that this questionnaire is intended to be answered by individuals and not organisations. Our intention is to capture the wide diversity of experiences and views of older people concerning their rights and how they are violated.

You can find out more at http://www.age-platform.eu/lastest-news-en-gb-6/2346-garop-consultation-on-the-rights-of-older-persons

Dementia and Diverse Communities Conference

11th November 2014, Croydon College

Funded by Alzheimer’s Society and Age UK London, and in partnership with the London Borough of Croydon and Croydon BME Forum, Dementia and Diverse Communities will focus on the needs of people living with dementia from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities in Croydon. It is also open to participants from other boroughs.

It is estimated that there will be almost 50,000 people from BME communities living with dementia in the UK by 2026. Despite this, people from BME backgrounds are underrepresented in dementia services. Dementia and Diverse Communities will explore this issue for BME individuals living in Croydon. Through a series of talks and workshops, we will consider the barriers faced by BME communities in accessing person-centred care in the borough and how to overcome them, as well as models of good practice already taking place.

The conference is an opportunity for those commissioning, providing and in receipt of dementia services to shape and inform what the borough’s future BME specific service provision will look like for people living with dementia in Croydon.

For more information and to register your place, visit our Eventbrite page: http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dementia-and-diverse-communities-tickets-12687513695?aff=es2&rank=0
Access All Areas – 2 October

On 2 October Transport for London are holding a free public exhibition and conference about disabled and older people’s access to transport at ExCel and you are invited!

The Access All Areas event will highlight current and future innovations aimed at making it easier for everyone to get out and about in the Capital. It will also provide an opportunity for disabled and older people and their organisations to discuss priorities for accessibility with leaders in the transport field.

The day will feature a range of interactive exhibits and activities, including:

- Life-size mock-ups of Tube and rail stations and street environments, along side real buses, taxis, coaches and Dial-a-Ride vehicles
- An innovation zone, including the latest work from UCL’s Accessibility Research Group
- Blindfolded touch tours of vehicles, run by the Guide Dogs charity
- Seminars, discussion sessions and workshops on topics including: conflict between cyclists and pedestrians; Q&A sessions with managing directors of London’s bus companies; information for people with learning disabilities; and training of rail and bus staff
- Earlybird offers for free rides on the Emirates Air Line cable car

The show will also provide a safe environment for disabled people to learn about transport and try out London’s increasingly accessible network.

*The agenda for the day is available on the event website, where you can register, at tfl.gov.uk/access-all-areas.*

“The Age of No Retirement?”

Major free event on ageing and the economy, 1-2 October

We are used to hearing about the demographic time bomb, the baby boomers who stole our prosperity, and the unsustainable cost of the ever-growing older generation.

But, people are now living longer, healthier and more productively than ever before. In other words, we are younger for longer. So we need to start thinking in terms of positives, and what this means for the UK: a fit, educated workforce that possesses that most valuable of assets – experience. And we can’t let all this talent go to waste.

‘The Age of No Retirement?’ is a landmark event that will bring together for the first time employers, policy makers, corporations (big and small), designers, artists, academics, inventors and social commentators to explore the social and economic opportunities of a Britain in which the average person now lives.

We hope to change thinking on a massive scale and ‘The Age of No Retirement?’ starting on the 1st October is the first step in this process.

We must break new ground. We must imagine new futures.

*Dr Jonathan Collie, CEO & Founder Trading Times and Georgina Lee, Founder Commonland*

Participation is free and you can register on [https://theageofnoretirement.eventbrite.co.uk](https://theageofnoretirement.eventbrite.co.uk) which also gives details of the venue and timing.
Save the Date – Ageing without Children, 26 January 2015

Positive Ageing in London, the London regional forum on ageing, is planning a workshop on “Ageing Without Children” with a range of expert speakers from academic and practitioner backgrounds. We believe this is the first UK event focusing on this increasingly important topic. Further details will be available soon from http://pailondon.org.uk/

See also this new blog from Kirsty Woodard of Barker and Woodard Consulting who will be contributing to the workshop: http://wp.me/p4ik1r-2G

Seminar on Health impacts of caring for grandchildren

Grandparents Plus and King’s College London would like to invite you to attend our end of project seminar to present the findings of our ESCR funded project: how does providing care for grandchildren impact on the health and well-being of grandparents?

The research is based on longitudinal data from the Survey of Health Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) as well as the English Longitudinal Survey on Ageing (ELSA). The findings show that providing childcare for grandchildren is associated with improved health outcomes for grandparents.

The seminar will take place on 14 October at the Mother’s Union, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3RB near Westminster, between 4 and 6pm and will be followed by a drinks and canapés reception until 7pm. Places are free but numbers are limited so please let us know as soon as possible if you would to attend. Click for Programme.

Speakers:
Professor Virpi Timonen, Professor of Social Policy and Ageing, Trinity College Dublin
Karen Glaser, Professor of Gerontology, King’s College London
Sarah Wellard, Director of Policy and Research at Grandparents Plus
Political speaker tbc

Please RSVP events@grandparentsplus.org.uk before 3rd October as places are limited, indicating your full name, title, organisation and email.

Best wishes,
Grandparents Plus
King’s College London

One Voice for Age Sutton (OVFA) is a user involvement members’ group hosted by Age UK Sutton and it is run by older people, for older people. Currently it has 117 members, but it is expanding rapidly.

Members of One Voice for Age advocate on behalf of their peers to ensure that Sutton’s older population has a clear voice and means of action. With a new four-year grant from the Big Lottery Fund, One Voice for Age Sutton is realising its potential to be a hub of older people’s intelligence, expertise, learning, campaigning, involvement and peer-support.

(article continues overleaf)
Campaigning: members of OVFA Sutton identified future campaign priorities, with social isolation and community engagement being especially important. Other issues include transport, carers’ needs and equal access to services including the post office, health and social care services.

Advocacy: OVFA Sutton members highlighted the need for a dedicated advocacy service to support older people in the resolution of problems. Accordingly, OVFA volunteers have been instrumental in setting up this service and training as peer advocates to help deliver it.

Digital inclusion: OVFA Sutton volunteers identified digital exclusion as a major issue during their interviews with the older population of Sutton. As a means of tackling this, a menu of digital support options is now available, for older people to choose from according to their requirements. Trained volunteers offer a spectrum of digital support, from one-to-one, personalised IT sessions in the home to group classes conducted in the community.

“By uniting these three golden strands of campaigning, advocacy and digital inclusion, One Voice for Age Sutton, alongside Age UK Sutton will create a difference to the lives of Sutton’s older population” (Marion Harper, CEO Age UK Sutton).

Members of OVFA can engage as much or as little as they have time for. Some members simply enjoy the social aspects of meeting new people over a cuppa, being kept informed about developments in the borough, and learning new things (each month we have a different guest speaker on topics of interest). Some take things further by representing their community on forums and strategic groups around the borough. Others get involved in interviewing older residents of Sutton, taking part in consultations and research, volunteering as peer advocates, or teaching others how to improve their skills on computers and smart phones. The choice is up to the individual.

For further information, please contact us:
Maya Albert (Involvement Manager): involvement@ageuksutton.org.uk; Tel: 0208 770 4096
Vizma Ezite (Digital Inclusion Manager): digital@ageuksutton.org.uk; Tel: 0208 770 6960
Hannah Murphy (Advocacy Manager): advocacy@ageuksutton.org.uk; Tel: 0208 770 4614

Age UK report shows 65+ contribution to the economy

Age UK has published a report by its Chief Economist estimating the value of the economic contribution of older people aged 65+ in the UK. Among the key findings are:

- People aged 65 and above contribute approximately £61bn a year, or almost five per cent of the UK’s entire GDP
- This is made up of their employment contribution (£37 bn); informal caring activities (£11.4 bn), childcare (£6.6 bn) and volunteering (£5.8 bn)

You can read the full report at http://bit.ly/1u6sgye

For more information please email Gordon Deuchars, Policy & Campaigns Manager, or phone 020 7820 6777.