

Adapting Today for Tomorrow's Climate

Climate Change presents two challenges. Firstly adaptation, preparing for changes in our climate that are now inevitable, and secondly mitigation, reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to limit further more dangerous climate change. To successfully tackle climate change, we must both adapt and mitigate.

Climate change will mean we will experience warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers, with more frequent and more intense extreme weather conditions such as windstorms, tidal surges, heat waves and drought. Sea levels are expected to rise by up to a metre by the end of the century. These changes will be more pronounced in the south east of England with average summer temperatures increasing by 5°C and summer rainfall reducing by 50% by the 2080s. Extremes of temperature, rainfall or storms that are now as rare as once every 50–100 years could occur every three or four years.

London already experiences flooding, drought and heat waves during extreme weather. As climate changes, today's extreme weather will become tomorrow's average weather, and a new set of extremes will be experienced. The frequency and intensity of the effects of extreme weather conditions will also increase. This will particularly affect the most vulnerable in society, the young, the elderly, the poor and the ill, and buildings and infrastructure with long lifetimes.

The Mayor is preparing a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for London, to identify the effects of climate change on London, and to put in place policies and procedures to manage these changes. Some of the effects

will be positive. Warmer winters will reduce the number of people who die of cold. Many of the effects are aggravated by the urban microclimate, and the legacy of aged infrastructure and poor building regulations.

By taking appropriate precautions against climate risks, and ensuring that new development is located, designed and constructed to suit the climate of the future, we can mitigate and manage the effects of climate change in our city.

The Mayor is keen to move forward on this agenda, and recently launched, with British Gas, an offer of cut price home insulation as part of London's Climate Change Action Plan. This insulation reduces the amount of heat lost through walls and lofts by up to 60%, meaning cheaper fuel bills as well as helping to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

We can also learn from cities that experience today the climate we will have tomorrow.

With acknowledgements to Alex Nickson, Policy Officer GLA

CAPITAL AGE FESTIVAL 2007

NOW IN ITS 5TH YEAR • EVERYONE WELCOME

Admission Free • Wheelchair Accessible

Sunday 19th August 2pm - 6pm

Bernie Spain Gardens, South Bank, SE1
Organisations are invited to take a stall.

Full information from Nabilla Nasser
020 7785 3873 • nabilla.nasser@london.gov.uk

Visit our new website at
www.capitalagefestival.org.uk

Ken Livingstone visits AGE Concern Redbridge

Age Concern Redbridge recently pulled out all the stops to ensure a successful visit by the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, when he visited Redbridge in March.

After visiting Hainault Primary School, the Mayor came to Age Concern where he met staff and showed an interest in the many services provided, before meeting with around 15 older people for a question and answer session.

Mr Livingstone was very interested to hear about the work of Age Concern and the issues affecting older people in the Borough. He wanted to know about help with benefits claims and advocacy for cases of elder abuse and was interested to learn about the insurance and trading services provided for older people.

Among those present at the question and answer session were members of Voices of Experience, Age Concern's consultative service for older people, representatives from The Pensioners Forum and Caribbean Melting Pot, together with people from a range of ethnic groups.

A number of issues were raised about local transport facilities, including the need for older people to be able to use the Freedom Pass early in the morning for such things as hospital appointments.



The Mayor pledged to maintain the Freedom Pass.

A matter of concern to those present was the impact of the Olympics on the Borough. The Mayor predicted that, despite media speculation, the costs would not be nearly as high as suggested.

James Monger, Senior Manager at Age Concern Redbridge said, "We were all delighted the visit passed so well. The Mayor asked very pertinent questions about our services and made notes of some of the issues raised by older people, so we hope for his on-going interest and support."

Introducing Nabs

Nabilla Nasser joined Anna Roberts at the London Older People's Resource Facility last November as a GLA Project Officer for Older People. Nabs, who is already a familiar face for many of you, has a BA in English and German Literature and an MA in European Politics. She has a keen interest in equalities issues and the voluntary sector. Before starting her job at the Mayor's Office, Nabs worked for the Anti-Discrimination Bureau in Berlin and in the Strategy Team of the National Offender Management Service at the

Home Office. Since joining the Mayor's Office, she has worked on a number of projects including the new Capital Age Festival website.

You can visit the website on www.capitalagefestival.org.uk



Dignity Champions

November 2006 saw the launch of the Department of Health's Dignity in Care Campaign which aims to stimulate a national debate around dignity in care and create a care system where there is zero tolerance of abuse and disrespect of older people.

As part of this campaign local people and staff are being invited to join a national network of Dignity Champions charged with helping bring about the required change in culture and practice at a local level. The aim is to have Dignity Champions active in all areas of the country, in all care settings and at all levels ranging from directors to catering staff.

Anyone who is committed to taking action to improve dignity in care is welcome to sign up as a Dignity Champion.

Dignity Champions are not being asked to move mountains. By signing up they are simply saying they will commit to do what they can to make a difference. What they do will vary from Champion to Champion. Some people will have the influence to be able to put this high on their organisation's agenda, others may be able to change the way their organisation delivers care. For some Champions it may

Resource Facility update

Both Anna and Nabs are keen to increase use of the Resource Facility in order to make the most of its potential. The Facility was originally set up to maximise consultation and engagement with older Londoners.



The project officers have recently redefined the space at the Facility to make it more user-friendly and have established a six-monthly programme of information and skills sharing sessions. They are also planning to extend the library collection and offer meeting rooms to older people's organisations.

If you would like to know more about these opportunities please contact Nabs on 020 7785 3873 or email nabilla.nasser@london.gov.uk

◀ **Resource facility users**

be as simple as just committing to personally challenge bad practice where they see it or making a small change to the way they work.

The Champions will have access to an online network and regular newsletters to keep them in touch with what others are doing and provide them with tips on how they can make a difference. They will also be invited to attend local networking events to see how local champions can work together to improve care in their locality.

Almost 500 people nationwide have already

signed up as Dignity Champions with many more joining each day. People recognise that dignity in care is a cause worth fighting for and one that they have the power to influence in some way.

You can sign up to become a Dignity Champion at www.dignityincare.org.uk or by ringing 0207 9724007.

To find out more about the campaign and the role of Dignity Champions, visit www.dh.gov.uk/dignityincare

With acknowledgements to Karen Dooley, Department of Health

Capital Age Winter Festival

Older people's creativity is flourishing. The 2007 Winter Festival held on 8th February provided a snapshot of the huge and emerging body of exciting new work by the capital's older actors, writers, singers, dancers and artists.

This, the first Capital Age Winter Festival, gave the opportunity for 110 older performers to transform the Chamber at City Hall into a live theatre, resounding with the sounds and movement of a diversity of music, dance, drama and poetry. Performing groups and audience joining together became as one, such was the team work and sense of shared ownership.

Capital Age Festival thanks David Slater (Arts Director) Entelechy Arts, Albany Technicians, GLA Officers and LOPSG volunteers for their vision and stamina. We are particularly grateful for the support and encouragement of the Mayor of London and the Arts Council England.



▲ **Leap of Faith**



▲ **Third Thought - Paradise**

New Members

The following groups have joined LOPSG this year:
Ackroyd Community Centre • Chinese National Healthy Living Centre • Edgware & Mill Hill Friendship Centre • Green Candle Dance Company • Lomond House • London Sevdah • Positive Ageing • Recycled Teenagers • The Refugee Council

Recent Donations

We thank the following for donations to our funds:
Ada Varley • AGE Concern Haringey • AGE Concern Harrow • Beryl Strong • CWU Retired Members West London Branch • Dutch Pot • Eileen McCormack • Great Wall Society • Havering Pensioners' Forum • Southwark Irish Pensioners • UNISON Greater London Region

Secretary's Report

Participants' Meetings

So far this year we have held two very well attended and successful Participants' Meetings. In February we chose the theme of Housing, to coincide with the consultation on the Mayor's Housing Strategy, and our April meeting was devoted to the topics of Age Discrimination and Dignity in Care.

Our Autumn Participants' Meeting will take place on 29th October at City Hall on the theme of Elder Abuse.

Annual General Meeting and Consultation Review

In preparation for this year's AGM the Coordinating Committee is conducting a review of our constitution to make it more fit for purpose. All member organisations are being consulted on proposals and a Special General Meeting will be held on 4th June to agree an updated constitution.

We will be asking each member organisation to give us the name and contact details of their voting representative for the AGM. Each organisation is entitled to one voting member and we hope to ensure that these representatives are registered with us well in advance to avoid any problems at the AGM.

Secretary's Report, continued

2007 London Older People's Assembly

Please note in your diary that this year's Assembly will take on 9th July at City Hall. The theme will be "Safeguarding London's Future: Older People and Climate Change".

Invitations will be sent out nearer the time.

Graeme Matthews,
LOPSG Secretary

A Touch of Magic

For a taster of the Capital Age Festival, head down to the Scoop at More London, outside City Hall, on Friday 17th August at 12.30pm, where a group of older performers will be weaving their magic in the summer sun.

Discounts on home insulation

from the Mayor of London and British Gas

LOPSG members living in Greater London can take advantage of an offer from Mayor Ken Livingstone, who has teamed up with British Gas to offer cut price home insulation as part of London's Climate Change Action Plan. The first 30,000 Londoners who apply for the offer will receive a discount on cavity wall or loft insulation as well as £100 cash back from the Mayor and British Gas. People on benefits including Pension Credit or Disability Living Allowance may also be eligible for free insulation. For more information, visit www.london.gov.uk/insulate or call 0845 070 5059 and quote 'LOPSG GLA'.



Looking for a Meeting Room?

Is your organisation hoping to organise a meeting but lacking the funds to hire a venue? If so, you might be interested to hear that the London Older People's Resource Facility has reserved the conference room at 1 London Bridge on three occasions this year and next year for the use of LOPSG member organisations.

The room accommodates up to 70 people theatre style and is fully accessible.

Groups can apply for use for half a day or a full day. The room will be provided free of charge, but you will have to supply your own catering.

The room is available from 10 am to 4 pm on the following dates:

Thursday 7th June 07
Thursday 6th September 07
Monday 5th November 07
Tuesday 15th January 08
Wednesday 12th March 08
Thursday 15th May 08

We want to make sure that this opportunity benefits the groups that need it most, and would primarily welcome applications from smaller organisations and those representing people who are particularly disadvantaged and discriminated against.

If your group is interested, please contact Anna Roberts on 020 7785 3870 or anna.roberts@london.gov.uk for more information and an application form.

Diary Dates

Monday 4th June
LOPSG Special General Meeting
11.00 to 1.00
Room 5 City Hall

Monday 9th July
Fifth Annual London Older People's Assembly
10.30 to 4.00, City Hall

Sunday 19th August
Fifth Annual Capital Age Festival
2.00 to 6.00
Bernie Spain Gardens South Bank

Friday 31st August
LOPSG AGM
1.30 to 3.30
Rooms 4 & 5, City Hall

Monday 29th October
LOPSG Participants' Meeting
1.00 for 1.30 start
Rooms 4 & 5, City Hall

Strategy is the newsletter of LOPSG. Views expressed in *Strategy* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or of LOPSG. You may contact the Editor at strategy.editor@lopsg.org.uk

www.lopsg.org.uk

The website of the London Older People's Strategies Group

Our website offers a growing one-stop resource for information on what LOPSG is, what we are doing, future activities and links to member organisations' websites.

It also offers an opportunity for you to list your events on the Members Noticeboard. Many more older people are now using the internet, and promoting your events on the web will help raise awareness of your work among a wider audience.

To place a free notice, email secretary@lopsg.org.uk or call the Older People's Resource Facility on **020 7785 3870**.

You can also download LOPSG documents and back issues of *Strategy* from the website.

Why not visit the website today?

How to join, or find out more about, LOPSG

As the principal forum for older Londoners' consultation with the Mayor, we are always looking to extend our membership, and particularly to encourage the involvement of representatives across the wide spectrum of London's communities and ethnic groups.

Membership is free, and is open to individuals, and representatives of London organisations. All members receive notice of LOPSG meetings, the quarterly newsletter *Strategy*, and documentation relating to Mayoral policy.

If you, or your organisation, would like to join, or find out more about LOPSG please contact Graeme Matthews (Secretary) 01895 631905 or Anna Roberts (Senior Project Officer, London Older People's Resource Facility) 020 7785 3870 or anna.roberts@london.gov.uk or visit our website at www.lopsg.org.uk

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