

LOPSG

London *Older People's* Strategies Group

Registered Charity No 1109128

Chair Eileen McNally, Vice-Chair David Gardiner OBE
Acting Secretary Mark Windisch
Assistant Secretary Harbhajan Singh
Treasurer Mark Windisch

www.lopsg.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 July 2010.

This year has been an eventful and rather difficult one mainly because the Secretary, Graeme Matthews was obliged to resign from the Committee early in the year due to ill health. For personal reasons the Assistant Secretary was unable to fill the Secretary's functions and the Treasurer had to add this role to his already busy one. A further problem arose when the Chairman moved to Yorkshire and was unable to take as active a role as we and she would have liked. This situation plus the limited capacity of the residual committee officers and the reduction in the logistical support from the GLA compared with previous years made it necessary to postpone the AGM for several months. Some further information on this may be found in a paragraph below.

Nonetheless LOPSG was able to deliver successful events as follows.

Participants Meetings

On 6th November 2009 a Participants Meeting was held on **Care Support Systems**. Guest speakers were Catherine Davis, Senior Adviser, Department of Health and Pauline Thompson, Senior Policy Adviser, Help the Aged/Age Concern.

The next Participants Meeting took place on 18th March 2010. A room could not be found in City Hall and accordingly a room was booked in the Indian YMCA just off Fitzroy Square. The intention had been that a Senior Policy Adviser from the GLA would address the meeting on **"Ensuring the Health Care We Need"**. Sadly the invited speaker was called to an alternative meeting in City Hall. We are very grateful to the GLA Community Officer, Melissa Abache who stood in and gave the talk instead.

The third Participant's meeting took place in City Hall on 21 May. The Subject was **"Older People and culture – the Mayor's draft Cultural Strategy"**. One of the GLA officers, a Mr Tom Campbell gave an entertaining presentation on the Mayor's Strategy and the participants were active in giving comments which were fed back to Mr Campbell.

It is necessary to report that the excellent support previously given to LOPSG has necessarily had to be severely curtailed following the requirement of the Mayor's office to make considerable savings in the running cost of the GLA. The cutbacks led to the closure of the GLA Facility in No1 London Bridge and a reduction in the amount of resource which the GLA Community support office was able to devote to servicing the needs of LOPSG and the various participative bodies. While the GLA has continued to support LOPSG in providing meeting space and refreshments and generously funding Capital Age Festival about which more later the withdrawal of resources at short notice has impacted heavily on LOPSG's functionality.

The Eighth London Older People's Assembly –Poverty welfare and older Londoners

The Assembly is the flagship event of LOPSG's year and took place on 5th August. The morning session took place in the Council Chamber of City Hall. LOPSG Chairman, Eileen McNally welcomed the guests and was followed in his usual rumbustious style by Mayor Boris Johnson. The first keynote address was given by Baroness Sally Greengross OBE, Commissioner, Equality and Human Rights Commission, and the second one was given by Steve Webb Minister of Pensions and the Ageing Society. This was followed by a panel debate with Eileen McNally, Richard Barnes, Deputy Mayor, Steve Webb, Bridgit Sam-Bailey LOPSG Committee member and Mark Windisch, LOPSG Acting Secretary and Treasurer.

After lunch there were two sets of Workshops available for delegates.

At 1:20 pm Workshop A, **Caring for an Older Population**, took place in the Council Chamber Chaired by Pat Prendergast LOPSG committee member and with a panel comprising Caroline Bernard Policy and Communications Manager, Counsel and Care, Dame Betty Safu-Adjaye, Founder and Chief Executive, Mission Dine Club, Miriam Cheri Senior Research Fellow and Head of Qualitative Research, Institute for Public Policy Research.

Simultaneously Workshop B, **Money Matters and Benefits**, took place in Committee Rooms 4 & 5. This session was chaired by Mark Windisch LOPSG Acting Secretary and Treasurer and with a panel comprising Kathy Wade Head of Advice and Wellbeing, Toynbee Hall, Simon Wilkinson, Later Life Performance Support Team, Department for Works and Pensions, Lizzie Iron Head of Welfare Policy Team, Citizens Advice Bureau, Mark Brangwyn, Head of Community Services, London Councils and Yasin Ahmed, DWP.

A Consultation Workshop took place in London's Living Room on the **GLA Draft Gender, Race Disability Equality Strategies** with Terry Day GLA Manager, Diversity, Sue Johnson GLA Senior Diversity and Social Policy Officer and Chaired by Ellen Lebethe LOPSH Chair Equality and Diversity Working Group.

At 2:30 there was changeover

Workshop C on **Poverty of Place** was conducted in the Council Chamber was Chaired by David Gardiner OBE, LOPSG Vice Chair. The panel consisted of Julie Fleck, Principal Adviser – Access and Inclusion, GLA London Plan, Pat Strachan, Housing Action Support Officer, Care and Repair England, Douglas Stern, Development Consultant, Foundations, Kajal Shah, Communications Officer, Policy Research Institute on Ageing and Ethnicity, Andrew Shipley, Lifetime Homes Co-ordinator, Habinteg Housing Association.

Workshop D in Committee Rooms 4 & 5 on **Employment and Older People** was chaired by Terry Murphy LOPSG Committee Member. The panel comprised Andrea Winkelmann-Gleed Senior Research Fellow, Working Lives Research Institute, Chris Ball CE, Third Age Employment Network, Peter Bennie Director of Development, Prime.

At the same time an Information Workshop **Volunteering and Older People** was chaired by Clare Douglas, LOPSG Committee Member in London's Living Room and with a panel comprising Lizzie Noel, Mayoral Adviser for Social Action and Volunteering, David Huse, London Ambassador's Programme, London Development Agency, Clive Pankhurst, Chair, Greater London Volunteering and CE, Volunteer Centre Southwark, Geraldine McCarthy,

Volunteer Manager for Age Concern Camden and Regional Representative for London on Volunteering Partnership.

Other events and reports

The Department of Works and Pensions set up an Engagement meeting for the LOPSG Committee with a facilitator. Approximately 15 people attended and were addressed by Joanna Rule. Afterwards discussions were held in groups and ways forward for the Committee were suggested. Miss Rule would like to see LOPSG look wider than just engagement with the GLA.

A meeting was held with Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes. The GLA pledged continued support for LOPSG despite the need to reduce their expenditure. A list of alternative venues to hold meetings when City Hall was not available was provided and assistance was promised in the recruitment of younger members with professional skills. This has not yet been implemented. The Deputy Mayor would like to see LOPSG engaging more with the London Boroughs. This will be an item to be addressed by the new Management Committee.

Along with Capital Age Festival, LOPSG has now taken out a lease on office premises at Unit 107B, 203/213 Mare Street, Hackney E8. This will be reported on more fully in the future. The Office will contain desks and filing cabinets and will be available for LOPSG and Participants by agreement in the future. Currently it is not yet furnished.

Report from Eileen McNally, Chair LOPSG

I appreciate that the Annual Report goes up to 10 July 2010. The events in the past year are listed below. However, in view of the events over the past months, I feel it is very important to look forward.

After several years involved with LOPSG and the past three years as Chair, it is with regret that I will not have direct contact in the future with the organisation (having moved to the North re: my husband's work). There have been many changes in the past months and with the publishing of the Comprehensive Spending Review, the cuts will have an enormous impact on older people as well as others in our communities.

As much has now been devolved to local Councils, I believe that it is vital that LOPSG, along with other colleagues, e.g. the Forums, work in the individual Boroughs to ensure that the views of older people are kept firmly on the agenda. LOPSG will still wish to engage with the Mayor of London's office and the Department of Work and Pensions. Talks have already begun on how LOPSG can link with the DWP and these will be matters for the new Management to consider and take forward after consultation with its membership.

I would like to thank everyone associated with LOPSG who have worked so hard under quite difficult circumstances over the past year. This is a new beginning and a new agenda and will be a hard fight. However, I am sure you will continue to use your influence on making sure, as far as is possible, that all older people are treated with the dignity and justice they have the right to expect.

Good luck to you all and thank you for your considerable support.

LOPSG Equalities and Diversity Group
Annual Report
October 2010

The LOPSG Equalities and Diversity Group exists to ensure that the principles and practices of equal opportunities and non-discrimination are central to the work of LOPSG and to the organisations with which it works. A key role of the group is to work in LOPSG for the empowerment of older people and to promote equal opportunities for all.

At the first meeting of the newly constituted group in September 2009, it identified the need for a clear work plan to:

- keep informed of the social, economic and cultural challenges facing a growing and more diverse community,
- engage in the mayor's strategy of ensuring that London's diverse communities particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged benefit from the city's success,
- report regularly and comprehensively to the Management Committee,
- raise awareness and empower members within the group by sharing relevant information and good practice and to
- raise the profile of the group and to increase its membership.

We also recognised the need to ensure that the Management Committee revisits the principles and practices of Equalities and Diversity in the future. We raised as an essential task the issue of reaching out to the over 50s in view of the numbers among them planning for retirement and moving from long term unemployment to retirement. We considered the question of raising the profile of LOPSG.

This report of our work over the year reflects our endeavours to pursue our plans.

The group has managed to report regularly to the Management Committee and has benefitted from its support and advice. The idea of an Equalities and Diversity session for the Management Committee is ongoing and was only been stalled initially by difficulties with staffing at the LOPSG Facility and of later financial constraints. The group hopes to continue to pursue the idea of raising the profile of LOPSG by having a presence at events hosted by the Mayor around the city. We are also aware of our own role in highlighting the work of LOPSG amongst our own groups. On the issue of reaching out to the over 50s, this has become a matter of even greater significance in the light of the present economic climate and of the impending cuts in public services and their effects on the jobs market. It has been placed firmly on the LOPSG agenda.

As part of its empowerment agenda, the group has ensured that members are kept informed of the many challenges facing older Londoners by disseminating relevant information in this regard and by reporting on meetings, conferences and events which have targeted the various issues. In our role of influencing policy and decision- making ,we have kept abreast of the Mayor's vision and plans for older Londoners through the various Equality Schemes 210-2011 i.e. Race Equality, Gender Equality, Disability Equality and have attended consultation meetings where appropriate. We have also been present at Assembly Meetings where we were able to make a valuable input through the workshops and discussions.

We aware that the Age Discrimination Bill and the Equality Bill will go some way in addressing discrimination and the inequalities which prevail, However, we are cognizant of the fact under the present difficult economic conditions decisions and policies at national

and local level difficult will invariably impact on the lives of all Londoners across the diverse communities.

It is imperative therefore that as the Equalities and Diversity Group of LOPSG we continue to raise awareness and ensure equal access to all who live in this rich city share in what it has to offer.

We invite you to join this group to ensure that we reach our objective.

Ellen Lebeth, (Chair E@D Group).

LOPSG Transport Strategy - Annual General Report

We again had 4 meetings throughout the year.

We appointed a new Vice Chair, Terry Murphy, in the continuing absence of Joy Moss.

During this time we had 2 speakers.

One was Caroline Pidgeon, the GLA Chair of Transport. We did find that quite a lot of what she spoke about was political, which we did not want. She did answer questions and promised to come back with answers. We still await these. Chasing them up.

The other speaker was a Joyce Mamode of Dial a ride. She talked a lot and we listened and then put pointed questions to her. We did remain polite although we did not believe most of what she said. We will do further follow ups.

We again raised the serious health and safety risks by allowing more 'buggies' on board buses that was allowed. We also stated that prams should not be allowed on buses. The buses were not designed to allow them to fit onto the buses. The drivers must be better trained and stick to what they are only allowed to carry.

Replacing bendy buses. The 507 is totally unacceptable for the usage by older people or disabled passengers. We hope that other routes are better catered for.

On going problems and issues

- London Underground tube drivers going through 54 red lights.
- Refurbishment of Victoria Station.
- Infestation of vermin on the tube.

Anne Bryant
Chairman

CAPITAL AGE FESTIVAL

The Capital Age Festival took place this year on Friday, 9th July. **Capital Age Festival: Dancing stAGE** took place on the stunning Clore Ballroom at the Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre. The afternoon event featured over 200 older dancers, performing a new choreographed piece to an audience of over 600.

After the fantastic success of Capital Age Festival: The Big Chair Dance in 2008, the festival again worked in partnership with East London Dance and Southbank Centre to produce **Dancing stAGE** as the pan-London older people's programme for Big Dance 2010.

Under the direction of Choreographer, Natasha Gilmore and Project Director, Cheryl McChesney, a team of artists worked with people from across the capital to create a breathtaking performance piece featuring:

- Leap Of Faith
- Montage Theatre Arts
- Carl Campbell's Recycled Teenagers
- Claremont Project
- EKTA
- Open Age
- Failite Social Club
- Green Candle Senior Dancers.

The afternoon also featured work by Entelechy Arts.

The festival was designed to champion and celebrate the work of existing dance performance companies in London and connect with new groups across London, to encourage participation and performance in dance. The aim was to produce a high quality site-specific performance that challenged preconceptions of older people dancing and connect with a broad audience of all ages

The wider project also delivered a number of one-off workshops in day care and residential settings, teaching a signature movement phrase from the final performance. Some participants from these groups were able to attend the final performance, enabling them to feel part of a bigger project.

As part of the preparation for the day, the Capital Age Festival website even got a makeover. You can see the new site live at www.capitalagefestival.org.uk.

The event was generously supported by the Mayor of London; support was also provided by Big Dance and secured by partner organisations from Legacy Trust UK and Arts Council England.

Paul Margrave – Artistic Director Capital Age Festival

Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year have been examined and approved by Mr J A Read, retired Administrator, and BBC.

Expenditure	Year Ended 31/7/2010	Year Ended 31/7/2009
Postage and Telephone	£388.31	£223.68
Travelling Expenses	£74.98	£108.00
Journal	£363.47	
Stationery and Printing	£479.75	£677.37
Meetings	£1,164.50	£3.40
IT Equipment and other including services	£4,466.23	£376.60
Total	£6,937.24	£1,389.05

Receipts		
Carried forward		
Contributions	£568.00	£1,206.00
Grant	£14,208.75	£0.00
Other		
Total	£14,776.75	£1,206.00

Surplus/Deficit	£7,839.51	-£183.05
Balance brought forward	£992.24	£1,175.29
Interest	£0.00	£0.00
(Income minus expenditure)	£7,839.51	-£183.05

Cash Position	£8,831.75	£992.24
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Notes

1. The accounts this year are somewhat different from those of previous years because of grants received from the Department of Works and Pensions for which LOPSG is very grateful. The DWP would like to continue to work closely with LOPSG.
2. The cost of meetings seems high but this was to fund the facilitator at the June engagement meeting and was funded with a grant from the Department for Works and Pensions.
3. The amount spent on "IT Equipment and other Services" is a misnomer. It contains a loan of £3,000 made to Capital Age Festival (2002) Ltd from funds provided by the DWP which will in repayment be used to fund part of the rental of office space described above, and the funding of a talk by Care and Repair for which a grant was obtained from the Department of Works and Pensions. These are both items for which categories in the accounts did not exist previously because they were not foreseen when the format was created.

4. The LOPSG journal *Strategy* was previously funded by the GLA and is now to be funded from LOPSG's own resources.
5. The generosity of LOPSG Members resulted in an income from this source of £568. This is a drop from the previous year but in view of the receipt of grants from external bodies no further appeals have been made.
6. The Department of Works and Pensions made grants totalling £13,400 mostly to fund specific plans. Some of these are yet to take place. A plan is in being and will no doubt be the subject of discussion within the new committee.

Mark Windisch - LOPSG Treasurer