

# **PERTH & KINROSS PENSIONERS FORUM**

## **SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**31 March 2003 – 31 March 2006**

### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

This document outlines the purpose for which Perth & Kinross Pensioners Forum was established, the position reached in March 2003 and developments that the Executive Committee of the Forum hopes to implement in the next three years.

Perth & Kinross is an attractive rural area with a developing tourist industry and many people move into the region to enjoy retirement. It has a population of around 133,620 of whom 37.49% are aged 50+

Against a background of a growing elderly population Perth & Kinross Pensioners Forum was established in 2001 to promote the welfare of older people in the area and to address the need for effective representation of their views. Key achievements to date have been:

- High profile representations on concessionary travel for older people and post office changes re benefit payouts
- Recognition by local statutory agencies as main agent for consultation with older people.
- Holding regular talks with government ministers on various topics concerning the welfare of the elderly.
- Attending workshops and conferences on all subjects regarding the elderly.
- Helping to establish a Pensioners Parliament.

### **STATUS OF PERTH & KINROSS PENSIONERS FORUM**

Perth & Kinross Pensioners Forum is an independent voluntary organisation, which is registered as a charity. It is managed by an Executive Committee of not less than eight members elected annually by the membership. Office bearers are similarly elected annually. Current office holders are:

Chairman: Jack Stewart

Vice-Chairman: Isobel Ives

Treasurer & Press Officer: Ron Macdonald

Secretary: Jim Ferguson

The address and telephone number for correspondence is:

Ron Macdonald (Press Officer)  
Tayside Pensioners Forum,  
South Lodge,  
Dunsinnan,  
BALBEGGIE,  
Perthshire PH2 600.  
Tel: 01821 650674  
Mob: 077131 86355  
E-mail: romamediagroup@linron.fsworld.co.uk

The aims Perth & Kinross Pensioners Forum (taken from the "Objects" in its constitution) are as follows:

- To work with other voluntary organisations, statutory organisations and individuals to identify the needs of older people in Perth & Kinross and Tayside.
- To make representations on behalf of older people.
- To make available information to, and on behalf of, older people
- To encourage the training and development of persons working with senior citizens
- To promote the development of appropriate services to meet the needs of older people

## **PRESENT POSTION**

### **Service Provided**

Perth & Kinross Pensioners Forum is involved in the following activities:

### **Consultation at a local level**

The Forum consults with, and represents the view of older people from Tayside to statutory agencies and other organisations, which provide services. This includes:

- A formal role in consultative processes leading up to the publication of the Health Improvement Programme and Community Care Plan;
- Consultation with the Commercial Services Group on its home care and garden maintenance services;
- Regular meetings with senior councillors and officials of Perth & Kinross council
- Care Together and local libraries (computers for the elderly)

## **Consultation at a national level**

Consultation nationally takes place in several ways:

- A link has been established with the Older People's Unit at the Scottish Executive.
- Members of Perth & Kinross Pensioners Forum serve on the Confederation of Scotland's Elderly, a representative body which recently met with the Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care.
- The Forum was involved with Better Government for Older People, a government initiative to consult older people on national policies.
- The Forum regularly exchanges information with the National Pensioners Convention and is encouraging the establishment of a Scottish branch.

## **Promotional Activities**

When appropriate the Forum by means of press publicity, petitions, demonstrations and other events, highlights issues affecting older people, - most recently on the policy and arrangements in Perth & Kinross for charging for home care.

## **Dissemination of Information**

Perth & Kinross Pensioners Forum makes available information of interest and relevance to older people (e.g. on pensions, transport, housing, social security, social work etc.) in various ways:

- Newsletters and reports are published regularly;
- A range of information in leaflet form is held by the Forum;
- A record is maintained and updated of local and national agencies, which are able to assist older people with advice and information.

## **Promoting Awareness**

The Forum attempts to heighten awareness among the public of issues concerning older people.

Recent activity in this field includes:

- Preparation and publication of a Pensioners' Charter;
- Attendance at meetings, road shows and other public events;
- To launch a web site on the Internet

## **Staffing**

The Forum, through future funding, is hoping to employ two staff, a Development Officer (full time) and an Administrative Assistant (16 hours per week).

The Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Forum will serve as line manager to the Development Officer.

## **Assets**

The Forum owns office equipment and a computer valued at approximately £1 ,400.00.

## **Annual Income and Expenditure**

When we first started, we received a cheque for £250 from Perth and Kinross council and then a further generous cheque from Help the Aged for £4719.

More recently, we received a further cheque from Perth and Kinross council for £5000

The expenditure has mostly been on travel to meetings and conferences.

A full balance sheet is available on request.

It should be noted however that the forum does not have long term security of funding for its services.

## **Objectives for the period to 31st March 2006**

The Forum believes that the development programme which has been possible over the past two years as a result of support from Help the Aged and Perth & Kinross council needs to continue if it is to be a fully effective voice for older people in Perth & Kinross. The Forum's objectives for the three-year period covered by this plan reflect this. They are:

- To improve the infrastructure of the Forum by reviewing and modifying its constitutional basis; by moving to office/ shop accommodation and by preparing and implementing a long-term funding strategy.
- To improve the level of representation of older people by increasing the number of members of the Forum to wider represent the region's elderly population; by involving more members in the Forum's activities; and by increasing the number and strengthening the role of branches.
- To maintain and extend the recognition of the Forum's role by local and national statutory and governmental bodies and to continue to be seen as the major channel for consultation with older people in Tayside.
- The Forum will continue during the next three years to offer the services (described in the previous section) which have proved to be of benefit. In addition, the Forum has identified a number of specific developments that it would like to promote over the next three years in order to achieve the three objectives set out above. These developments are listed in the following section. Additional sheets set out the estimated financial implications of the developments in this Service Development Plan.