

Cross-Party Group Annual Report

23.05.2023

Cross-Party Group on Older People and Ageing

1. Group membership and office holders

Members

Chair: Mike Hedges MS

Janet Finch-Saunders MS

Dr Altaf Hussain MS

Joel James MS

Delyth Jewell MS

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS

Sioned Williams MS

External members

- Steve Milsom - Cymru Older Persons Alliance (COPA)
- Huw Bendall - Cymru Older Persons Alliance (COPA)
- Dereck Roberts – National Pensioners Convention Wales
- Gareth Parsons – Wales Seniors Forum
- Aileen Haskell – Wales Seniors Forum
- Barry Stephens - Active Wales
- Carys Henry - Age Cymru Trustee
- Charles Carter – Age Cymru Trustee
- Dr Bernadette Fuge, President Age Cymru
- Professor John Williams - Chair Age Cymru
- Michael Phillips - Age Cymru
- Christopher Williams - Age Alliance Wales
- Dewi John - Older People's Commissioner for Wales
- Becky Ricketts – Care & Repair Cymru
- Faye Patton - Care & Repair Cymru
- Andrea Nicholas-Jones – Action for Elders
- Naomi White, British Red Cross
- Emma Emsley – Hourglass Cymru
- Melanie Minty - Care Forum Wales
- Mathew Norman, Diabetes UK (Wales)
- Paul Chappell – RNID
- Steve Amos, RVS
- Lorraine Morgan – Jackie's Revolution
- Jackie-Marshall-Cyrus – Jackie's Revolution
- Emma Davies - Social Care Wales
- Neeta Baicher, BASW
- Dr Maria Cheshire-Allen - Swansea University
- Professor Dame June Clark, Swansea University

Secretariat

Ceri Cryer - Age Cymru

2. Previous Group Meetings since the last AGM

Minutes of meetings were prepared by Ceri Cryer and Michael Phillips, Age Cymru.

Meeting 1

Meeting date: 7 June 2022 – online meeting

Attendees

Mike Hedges MS (Chair)	Andrea Cooper, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Jane Hutt MS, Minister for Social Justice	Ceri Cryer, Age Cymru
Jack Sargeant MS	Dr Bernadette Fuge, President Age Cymru
Ryland Doyle, office of Mike Hedges MS	Heather Ferguson, Age Cymru
Ioan Bellin, office of Rhys ab Owen MS	Steve Milsom, Cymru Older People's Alliance (COPA)
Alex Hughes-Howells, office of Dr Altaf Hussain	Michael Phillips, Age Cymru
Paul Webb, Welsh Government	

Apologies

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS	Charles Carter, Age Cymru Trustee
Rachel Dawson, Age Cymru	

Lynda Wallis, who had been a long-standing member of the Cross-Party Group has stood down from representing the Welsh Senate of Older People.

Mike Hedges MS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes for the meeting held on 24 April 2022 were approved.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

National strategy - Minister for Social Justice, Jane Hutt MS

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on our new Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy for 2022 to 2026.

It is an ambitious Strategy, that builds on successful interventions we want to continue but also defines new priorities and approaches to expand and focus how we address VAWDASV as a whole system.

It is a Strategy marked by a commitment to tackle cause as well as effect, which will depend on collaboration and working in a preventative way to tackle the root causes of VAWDASV.

This strategy is built on a strengthened partnership. There is a considerable amount of commitment between key partners, both statutory, in the specialist sector and with survivors. However, the structures of leadership and governance can be strengthened further to ensure action is co-ordinated and directed so that collectively we offer more than the sum of our parts.

It is also a Strategy for wider society to make changes to norms, behaviours and cultures. I don't want to detract from the excellent work that has gone on to support survivors, but we need to achieve more in tackling perpetrators.

A key part of the new Blueprint approach for implementing the strategy is the National Partnership Board which brings together devolved and non-devolved partners, including the Older People's Commissioner. I Co-chair this Board with PCC Dafydd Llywelyn, the lead Police and Crime Commissioner on this issue for the four Police Forces in Wales. The Board will ensure the voices of a diverse group of survivors are heard to co-produce our solutions and monitor our progress.

Work on delivering the Strategy will be aligned to our Programme for Government commitments and it will be a Strategy for everyone in Wales whose lives have been impacted by VAWDASV – whatever their age. We have listened to the invaluable feedback from our consultation on a draft Strategy and have acknowledged the concerns about older people facing VAWDASV.

In response to this feedback and following further discussion at the National Partnership Board on 23 May, we have agreed to have a dedicated workstream which will focus specifically on the needs of Older People in relation to VAWDASV issues.

In addition to the workstream for Older People, we will have workstreams for street harassment and safety in public places; workplace harassment; tackling perpetration; sustainable commissioning; and children and young people's needs. Responsibility for developing detailed workplans for the implementation of the Strategy will fall to the workstreams.

The voices of survivors from different communities and backgrounds will be critical and integral to developing our strategy in a way which can work in the real world. Listening to those diverse voices will also help us to find solutions which build on the strengths of survivors.

This is a cross government strategy with active engagement and support from ministerial colleagues in education, health, housing, local government and the economy.

Those who are exposed to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence need us to work together.

I firmly believe this Strategy has the prospect of being a real step forward in our ambition to end VAWDASV and makes Wales the safest place to live for women and girls, where all have a right to 'live fear free'.

Questions and discussion

Steve Milsom – Encouraging to see the extent to which you took account of older people in this work – working with the Cymru Older People's Alliance and the Older People's Commissioner – so glad they're on the task force. The Older People's Commissioner have already done some research on violence against older men.

Minister - You make some important points. I met regularly with the Older People's Commissioner, especially on domestic abuse. There is a growing recognition of older men's experiences of elder abuse, and it is important that we focus on it within the overall older people's workstream. The pandemic affected relationships so much.

Heather Ferguson – The cost-of-living crisis increases pressures that can result in domestic abuse.

Minister – The cost-of living crisis has a huge impact on older people's lives – we need to look through the cost-of-living lens. I urge everyone to promote the 'Claim what's yours' campaign – pension credit is hugely underclaimed. There is Welsh Government support in place – such as the Winter Fuel Support Scheme. (The Minister later confirmed that the scheme will be extended to those claiming pension credit).

Andrea Cooper – We published statistics on older male abuse in July.

Paul Webb – We need to focus on toxic masculinity as a whole society problem, and the need to change culture. The older people working group can focus on male older victims. The various working groups can pull together in the summer and report back in September or October.

'Don't Get Me Started: Older people exploring their rights' – Heather Ferguson, Age Cymru (on behalf of Rachel Dawson, Human Rights Project Officer, Age Cymru).

Heather presented a screening of Age Cymru's animated short film and a summary of the actions taken during this six-month project, delivered in partnership with the Welsh Government. The film can be viewed at: [Human rights project | Age Cymru \(ageuk.org.uk\)](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/human-rights-project/)

Mike Hedges – some GP surgeries are very good, but others are very difficult to get into.

Heather Ferguson – with reference to the third national survey of the current experiences of people aged 50 or over in Wales of the Covid-19 pandemic, which was carried between February and April by Age Cymru in partnership with national older people's organisations - access to healthcare and GPs was most talked about. Older people are struggling with the structure, especially with digital access,

telephone triage systems, and carers trying to book appointments for the people they care for. The survey will be published next week.

Steve Milsom – This is a brilliant piece of work to raise awareness of older people’s rights. I am also aware that the Welsh Government commissioned Swansea University to carry out research on human rights.

Action points

Heather Ferguson will be invited to a future meeting of the Group to speak about the results of the third national Covid survey.

Any Other Business

Ceri mentioned that the Group had been sent some information about the HARP (Health, Arts, Research, People) multi-partner research and innovation project that has been exploring how the arts can take a leading role in creating ‘A Healthier Wales’. Partners include Arts Council of Wales, Nesta, Cardiff University’s Y Lab, the Welsh NHS Confederation and the Wales Arts Health and Wellbeing Network. The information will be circulated with the Minutes.

Meeting 2

Meeting date: 15 November 2022 – online meeting.

Attendees

Mike Hedges MS (Chair)	Lorraine Morgan, Jackie’s Revolution
Ryland Doyle, office of Mike Hedges MS	Andrea Nicholas-Jones, Jackie’s Revolution
Ceri Cryer, Age Cymru	Michael Phillips, Age Cymru
Heather Ferguson, Age Cymru	Jacob Powley, Age Cymru
Dr Bernadette Fuge, President Age Cymru	Becky Ricketts, Care & Repair Cymru
Aileen Haskell, Wales Seniors Forum	Naomi White, British Red Cross
Jackie Marshall-Cyrus, Jackie’s Revolution	John Williams, Chair Age Cymru

Apologies

Charles Carter, Age Cymru Trustee	Dereck Roberts, National Pensioners Convention (NPC) Wales
Carys Henry, Age Cymru Trustee	Christopher Williams, Age Alliance Wales
Gareth Parsons, Wales Seniors Forum	

Mike Hedges MS, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes for the meeting held on 7 June 2022 were approved.

Introduction to Jackie's Revolution CIC – Lorraine Morgan, Jackie's Revolution

Jackie's Revolution is a not for profit new social enterprise registered in Torfaen and supported and advised by Cwmpas, and aims to improve the long-term care situation for older adults.

Jackie's Revolution - Jackie Marshall–Cyrus, CEO and Founder of Jackie's Revolution CIC (the presentation was sent to Group members following the meeting).

Jackie's Revolution wants to bring about a revolution of long-term care to live our best lives in our own homes. There has been little change in improving people's lives with complete lack of innovation leaving people living in institutionalised environments.

Jackie's Revolution is a Community Interest Company focused on addressing the challenge of long-term care for our community, and focusing on people born between 1945 and 1964. Our purpose is to provide our community with the choice and capability to live and die in their own homes. Our objective is a Welsh Demonstrator – a housing-focused solution, modelling advanced lifestyles with care that's sustainable, fit for purpose, aligned to the 21st century lifestyles, and with Human Rights at its core.

There are a number of challenges: the current institutional model of long-term care is no longer economically sustainable, socially desirable, or ethically acceptable as a way of living for older adults in the 21st century; those who wish to live differently are extremely limited in their capability to do so; the "othering", commodification, and objectification of older citizens; a humanitarian crisis looms; and to drive innovation in order to sustain our community's independence and inter-dependence in their own homes/communities, regardless of medical and or social status.

Our purpose is to help people live in their own homes. We need to design homes that are fit for purpose with human rights at its core. We have prepared a five year plan 'Twice For Wales' – a large-scale innovation program to co-create, de-risk, simulate, cost, pilot and evaluate a novel non-institutional eco-system of long-term care provision.

We need to develop a housing led ecosystem for the ageing and long-term care needs for all of us. Ageing is everyone's interest, for example, those who work in robotics, planning, tourism, green energy – we need to engage with all of them and create something different.

We have set out details of our high level 5 year plan, and over the next three months we wish to undertake an in-depth population analysis of our targeted segment of the population.

Q&A

Becky Ricketts – you're targeting a certain age group, but will the programme be more flexible?

Jackie Marshall-Cyrus – when you set up as a Community Interest Company you have to state your target community in your application, but we will be engaging with others.

Prof John Williams – The approach is right to make change. Human rights at the heart of care and being able to live a life in your own home with an appropriate package of care. We talk a lot about age friendly public spaces, and it's important that a person's private space enables them to use public space - a person's care home or home can become a prison for a whole host of reasons. There is the need to recognise that private space is just as important in the context of age friendly communities, and the need to design a human rights friendly environment into our homes and care homes.

Mike Hedges MS thanked the presenters and suggested that they come back to the Cross-Party Group at a future date to give an update on progress.

Why are we waiting? Presented by Heather Ferguson, Head of Policy and Projects, Age Cymru (the presentation was sent to Group members following the meeting).

This is an overview of the recommendations from Age Cymru's recently published report 'Why are we waiting – delays in social care in Wales' – the full report is available on our website:

[Age Cymru | Why are we waiting - delays in social care in Wales \(ageuk.org.uk\)](https://ageuk.org.uk)

This research was carried out following initial evidence in early 2022 from Age Cymru's Advice services and Advocacy services which saw delays in older people being assessed by social care for their needs, as well as delays in sourcing care packages once an assessment had been completed. Delays in getting care can have a significant impact on older people and their loved ones, and older people's needs can change while waiting for care. People feel forgotten about, and such delays can result in lives being put on hold.

We asked local authorities about the time taken to assess needs and have care in place for everyone asking for help aged 55 or over for the last two years. One of the key findings of our research was problems in data collection and a parity of data across Wales. We received information from 10 of the 22 local authorities in Wales on how long it takes to assess people's needs, and six local authorities on how long it takes for care to be provided. Our research shows a partial but important picture of the scale of delays.

We found during 2019/2020 86% of people aged 55 or over had their needs assessed within 30 days and during 2020/2021 this was 91%. Over 19% waited more than 60 days for an assessment in 2019/2020 and 4% did during 2020/2021. Just over 70% had some or all their care in place within 30 days of

an assessment in 2019/20 and just under 69% did for 2020/21. Everybody has a legal right to an assessment in a timely manner.

295 people were waiting more than 30 days, and 135 people were waiting more than two months, for care packages to be implemented.

We found that local authorities are working hard to recover from the pandemic and improve social care for older people, and support carers. We spoke to social care leads who told us that action is being taken, with more support for more enterprises, more IT, transport – and that local authorities wanted to do more for unpaid carers. Third sector support is vital to support social care and funding needs to be provided on a sustainable basis

There was little communication for those waiting on lists. Local authorities write to people to say they're on a list and how they can be supported but some people had received no support whilst waiting. Communication needs improving as does support for those on waiting lists to wait well. A national focus is needed to look at what help is available and useful whilst people wait.

We understand the pressures, and our recommendations are based around changes that we feel could be made. There is good practice going on, but it needs sharing.

Conclusions and recommendations:

- Efforts are being made across Wales to recover from the pandemic and improve social care
- Data collection systems across many local authorities aren't able to effectively monitor and report on those waiting for a care assessment or care package to be implemented
- Local authorities need to assess their current procedures for first contact and ongoing communication for people needing care and make improvements
- Local authorities need to find additional resourcing to support people whilst they are waiting for social care
- A national focus is needed to look at what help is available and useful whilst people wait
- Local authorities need to share best practice on how they are making changes with other local authorities to help all find solutions
- Third sector support is vital to support social care and funding needs to be provided on a sustainable basis
- Regional partnership boards need to examine whether the volume of community support that can help people's wellbeing is actually there for people through social prescribing services.

Q&A

Mike Hedges MS – I hear in health and social care that nobody tells anybody anything, and people think they're forgotten about. We need to keep communication channels open, tell people what's happening.

Lorraine Morgan – The citizen panel in Gwent said when support packages were taken away during Covid, people never had a call to ask how they were doing which is such an obvious thing to do.

Mike Hedges MS – the question ‘how are you?’ goes a long way, and it’s basic good management.

Heather Ferguson – we agree that some of these concerns can be easily remedied.

Aileen Haskell – the basic problem is the diminishing care workforce; the training, education, wages are too poor. Social care is the Cinderella of services. The government is not willing to grasp the mettle and provide action.

Mike Hedges MS – we need to deal with people early enough to prevent a crisis.

Prof John Williams – there is a lack of data - this is basic data that would need to be collected in order to draw down funds. With delays of more than 30 days people’s health can change.

Heather Ferguson – we were quite shocked by the lack of data, as it’s not being effectively monitored who is getting support, and when. We have spoken to the Deputy Minister for Social Services, and any action by this Cross-Party Group to re-emphasise these issues would be very welcome.

Mike Hedges MS said that he would write, as Chair of the Cross-Party Group, to the Deputy Minister for Social Services.

Any Other Business

Heather Ferguson mentioned a forthcoming state of the nation survey that Age Cymru will be undertaking in partnership with national older people’s organisations early in the new year, and would be happy to present the findings to the Group.

Action points

- Jackie Marshall-Cyrus and Lorraine Morgan to be invited back to the Cross—Party Group to provide an update on progress of Jackie’s Revolution
- Mike Hedges MS (Chair) to write to the Deputy Minister for Social Services about the lack of data and other issues regarding delays in social care
- Heather Ferguson to be invited to a future meeting of the Group to present findings of Age Cymru’s forthcoming state of the nation survey.

Meeting 3

Meeting date: 28 March 2023 – online meeting.

Attendees

Mike Hedges MS (Chair)	Mathew Norman, Diabetes UK (Cymru)
Ryland Doyle, office of Mike Hedges MS	Gareth Parsons, Wales Seniors Forum
Huw Bendall, Cymru Older Persons Alliance (COPA)	Faye Patton, Care & Repair Cymru
Rachel Bowen, office of Older People's Commissioner Wales	Michael Phillips, Age Cymru
Ceri Cryer, Age Cymru	Jacob Powley, Age Cymru
Dr Bernadette Fuge, President Age Cymru	Dereck Roberts, National Pensioners Convention (NPC) Wales
Jackie Marshall-Cyrus, Jackie's Revolution	Helen Twidle, Age Cymru
Lorraine Morgan, Jackie's Revolution	Naomi White, British Red Cross
Andrea Nicholas-Jones, Action for Elders	Christopher Williams, Age Alliance Wales

Apologies

Heledd Fychan MS	Carys Henry, Age Cymru Trustee
Llyr Gruffydd MS	Becky Ricketts, Care & Repair Cymru
Charles Carter, Age Cymru Trustee	Prof. John Williams, Chair Age Cymru

Mike Hedges MS, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The Minutes for the meeting held on 15 November 2022 were approved.

Mike Hedges MS is following up a response from the Deputy Minister for Social Services to his letter regarding delays in social care.

Presentation – The State of Older People's Housing in Wales – Faye Patton, Policy Manager, Care & Repair Cymru (the presentation was sent to Group members following the meeting).

Care & Repair Cymru launched a report in January 2023 'The state of older people's housing in Wales'¹ about some of the challenges older people in Wales are facing in terms of living independently and also some of the challenges faced by Care & Repair Cymru.

¹ <https://careandrepair.org.uk/housing2023/>

Care & Repair Cymru provide housing adaptations and home improvements for older people across Wales. We operate in all 22 local authorities in Wales. We have caseworkers who can complete home assessments for adaptations and complete a Healthy Homes Check – checking the house for hazards such as falls risks, damp, mould, gas and fire safety etc., as well as offer other information such as benefits and wellbeing advice. We also have bespoke services for people who are in hospital but cannot go home due to a housing or environmental reason, Managing Better for people living with sensory loss, and a service for home energy efficiency.

We used data from over 22,000 clients over a period of 18 months for this report. Our average client age is increasing year on year. In terms of demographics, the majority of our clients live alone, two thirds of our clients are female and four out of five people we help disclose a disability.

Often we get calls from a client asking for a handrail because they've had a fall, and when we get there it's not just a handrail, but rotting floorboards, rotten carpet, damp walls so that the banister has come away and has contributed to that fall. A simple call often shows far more issues when you get to a property.

During lockdown older people especially had been told to stay inside, and what we are seeing is that people have learned to cope and manage in homes that are not suitable and are actually hazardous for their health. People tell us they're managing – but just because someone is managing doesn't mean they should be having to manage in those kind of conditions.

What can we do to help? The challenge is improving poor and deteriorating homes. We have the oldest housing stock in Western Europe in Wales, and that has an impact on the quality of energy efficiency in people's homes. Older people living in the least energy efficient homes are a fifth more likely to die during the winter than householders in the most efficient homes, and we are coming out a winter where issues were exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis.

There are challenges in the costs of materials for repairs. A wetroom that would previously have cost about £5,000 is now £6,000/£6,500 on average. We are also seeing a shortage of reliable contractors. The increasing complexity of cases means that they now they take longer to resolve.

There is a link between housing and health. Older people need more support to live independently at home, and we need a national safety net grant for instances where the clients cannot fund works themselves and where we cannot source benevolent funding on their behalf.

Questions and Discussion

Mike Hedges MS thanked Faye for the presentation and said he was impressed by the work of Care & Repair Cymru. He agreed that housing affects health, which is an issue he often raises.

Lorraine Morgan: the Agenda report - Housing for an Ageing Society, produced in 2017, made recommendations – some of which had been delivered, eg support for the work of Care & Repair Cymru, but other recommendations have not been progressed.

Helen Twidle: do grants diminish for those who have already been helped?

Faye Patton: we've helped people who have already had support. We're looking into the Housing with Care fund around ensuring that homes support independent living, which would marry up housing and health.

Jackie Marshall-Cyrus: Care & Repair Cymru provides a critical and necessary service. What is the thinking around sustainability for meeting the needs of older adults in Wales, and innovation?

Michael Phillips: has Care & Repair Cymru been involved in work around older people who live in large family homes inviting students to house share?

Faye Patton: we have not been involved in such house sharing schemes. In reply to Jackie's question, challenges and pressure on our services are increasing. We get funding from Welsh Government for adaptations, and for repairs we source benevolent funds. In terms of sustainability this report forms the basis for our campaigning. Regarding innovation, taking learning from our 70+ service which has been delivering home energy efficiency and advice, we are also developing a business plan around retrofitting and decarbonisation.

Andrea Nicholas-Jones: in terms of older people under occupying a house, there were some schemes in the Swansea area to link up with younger people.

Huw Bendall: it is disappointing that the link between housing and health is not recognised. House sharing schemes need to involve a lot of support from other agencies due to potential risks involved, and would only be able to help a small proportion of people.

Presentation - Time to get it right - Hospital discharge for older people in Wales. Helen Twidle, Health and Social Care Policy Officer, Age Cymru and Naomi White, Policy and Public Affairs Officer - Wales, British Red Cross (the presentation was sent to Group members following the meeting).

Age Cymru Local Partners provide hospital discharge services in some local authority areas for people aged 50+. Age Cymru's 'Why are we Waiting?'² report from 2022 and ongoing current work on this shows a worrying increase in delays for older people that is contributing to delays in timely and appropriate hospital discharge.

² www.agecymru.org.uk/why-are-we-waiting

British Red Cross has worked in partnership with the NHS to support people when they are discharged from hospital. In March 2022 British Red Cross published 'Listening to What Matters'³, which looked at people's experiences of hospital discharge in Wales since the introduction of the Covid-19 hospital discharge requirements.

The hospital discharge process is not consistently meeting the needs of all patients and carers in Wales for the following main reasons:

- A lack of communication between teams in hospital and with community-based staff, and between health and social care professionals and patients and carers during the discharge process
- Pre and post discharge assessments are not being carried out where patients felt they had additional support needs
- A lack of resources in the community
- Many patients are not receiving information leaflets about the discharge process, or follow-up contact information.

It's vital that hospital discharge is person-centred care to promote wellbeing and independence. The Covid pandemic disproportionately impacted older people, and more are now living with poorer physical and mental health.

Age Cymru has some examples of case studies, dating from January 2023 further to Welsh Government's newer guidance on discharge that was issued at the beginning of the year, which illustrate issues around hospital discharge, including: unpaid carers' needs, where a relative had been assessed as needing to move to a care home but the hospital was pressurising the family to provide care at home until a placement is found; a family being excluded from decision-making regarding a relative being assessed for placement in a care home; a patient being discharged to unsafe home living conditions; and no support and advice regarding the medication needs of a discharged older person.

In terms of what good discharge should look like, there needs to be improved communication with and involvement of family and carers, and hospitals need to be provided with the guidance and tools needed to better determine the most appropriate discharge pathway for patients. Investment is needed in community-based support; all patients should be provided with a leaflet and information about discharge when entering and leaving hospital; and holistic checklists should be used to support conversations with patients, families and carers to ensure they have the support they need at home.

British Red Cross is currently in discussions to encourage the Welsh Government to implement a five-part independence checklist into its hospital discharge guidance review. The five-part independence checklist seeks to

³ <https://www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/we-speak-up-for-change/placing-people-at-the-centre-of-hospital-discharge-in-wales>

ensure that all holistic patient needs are met. This checklist would include assessing:

1. Practical independence (for example, suitable home environment and adaptations)
2. Social independence (for example, risk of loneliness and social isolation, if they have meaningful connections and support networks)
3. Psychological independence (for example, how they are feeling about going home, dealing with stress associated with injury)
4. Physical independence (for example, washing, getting dressed, making tea) and mobility (for example, need for a short-term wheelchair loan)
5. Financial independence (for example, ability to cope with financial burdens).

British Red Cross and Age Cymru will continue to campaign on these important areas, and asked if the Cross-Party Group on Older People and Ageing would be willing to write to the Minister about the issues that we've raised today?

Questions and Discussion

Mike Hedges MS agreed that the Cross-Party Group would write to the Minister.

Lorraine Morgan: I sit on a Citizen's Advice Panel in Gwent with a focus on wellbeing, and hospital discharge is a standing item for all our meetings. I have asked for a meeting with the RPB to raise concerns about hospital discharge.

Mike Hedges MS thanked all three speakers for their presentations, and left the meeting for Plenary.

Jackie Marshall-Cyrus: it's disconcerting that things haven't improved over the years even though we know what we need to do to discharge people safely. The cause needs to be addressed.

Helen Twidle: doing things in the right way saves time and effort in the long run.

Action points

- Cross-Party Group on Older People and Ageing to write to the Minister regarding issues around hospital discharge.

Any Other Business

Ceri Cryer will circulate information from the Nuffield Council on Bioethics about the launch of their report on the Future of Ageing, and also Age Cymru's 'Tell us what matters to you' national survey.

3. Professional lobbyists, voluntary organisations and charities with whom the Group has met during the preceding year

None other than as attendees of the Group's meetings and those stated as having provided presentations at group meetings.

Annual Financial Statement.

23 May 2023

Cross-Party Group on Older People and Ageing

Mike Hedges MS

Age Cymru

Group's Expenses.	No Group expenses.	£0.00
Costs of all goods.	No goods purchased.	£0.00
Benefits received by the group or individual Members from outside bodies.	No benefits received.	£0.00
Any secretariat or other support.	No financial support received.	£0.00
Services provided to the Group such as hospitality.		
Date	Description and name of provider	Cost
		£0.00
Total cost		£0.00