

**ANNUAL REPORT  
1 OCTOBER 2008 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**What is the Older People's Consultative Group (OPCG)?**

The main objectives of the OPCG, which is governed by a Constitution and Standing Orders, are: to ascertain, co-ordinate and reflect the views of older people in Dumfries and Galloway; to liaise with other groups and to express fairly the diversity of opinions and outlooks of older people. It is the main focus for consultation not only on older people's issues and service development in the region but also on issues not directly relating to older people but to which older people's groups have valuable and valid input. It is supported by both the Council and NHS.

OPCG is made up of nominated members from groups which have an interest in older people's issues and meet the criteria for membership. The positions of Chair and Vice-Chair are held by an elected member and non-Executive NHS Board Member.

**Chairperson's Report**

I am very pleased to be writing this first Chairperson's Report for OPCG. As with many new groups, OPCG has gone through the "forming, storming, norming and performing activities" and is now in good heart. You will see from this Annual Report that we already have 20 groups in membership, many of which have not been previously involved in this type of organisation before and also that a considerable number of issues have been discussed during the year. We are now beginning to achieve our target of being consulted on the broad range of strategies and plans which have an impact on older people and I am looking forward to the year ahead when there will be a number of critical consultations coming before us.

My gratitude must be recorded to all the members who have taken an active part in OPCG; the Strategic Planning, Commissioning and Performance Team; in particular, Mairi Telford Jammeh and Ann Stephenson for the sterling work they have done in the last year in facilitating OPCG and finally to the Vice-Chair – Andrew Johnston who will be taking over as Chair at the AGM, when I will be continuing in the role of Vice-Chair.

**Lorna McGowan – Elected Member, Dumfries and Galloway Council**

**Support from Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHS Dumfries and Galloway**

*"The OPCG plays an important role in assisting the Council to develop policies that are appropriate for people living in Dumfries and Galloway. The demographics of the region mean that we have an increasingly large percentage of the population in more senior age groups. At a time of challenging reductions in local government funding, we need to be able to target our services effectively and efficiently and it helps to have a clear picture of people's needs. I am grateful for the OPCG's valuable input".*

**Gavin Stevenson, Chief Executive, Dumfries and Galloway Council**

*"I commend this first Annual Report of the Older People's Consultative Group. It demonstrates how both Council and NHS are working together with a range of local organisations across the region and highlights the progress that is being made to bring together the diversity of views, opinions and outlooks of older people to help inform how our services are planned and delivered."*

**John Burns, Chief Executive, NHS Dumfries and Galloway**

## Meetings

During the year, meetings have been held across the region in Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, Moffat and Newton Stewart and a community minibus was used for the last meeting to help with travel. Wherever possible a sound system with loop system is now used to ensure meetings are accessible to all. Members are able to claim travel expenses.

## Groups in membership October 08 – September 09

Accessible Transport Forum (co-option)

Age Concern and Help The Aged in Scotland

Alzheimer Scotland

Civil Service Retirement Fellowship

Coronation Day Centre

Dalbeattie Probus Club

Dumfries Day Centre

Dumfries and Galloway Seniors Forum

Langholm Day Centre

Lockerbie & District Retired and

Independent Ladies Club

Loreburn Retirement Group

Moffat Evergreen/Moffat Probus Club

Royal British Legion

Senior Citizens Friendship Group

The Food Train

Unison Retired Members

Unite Retired Members Association

University of the Third Age

User and Carer Involvement

WRVS



## What have been the *main* agenda items and what has been achieved?

Agenda Item	Date	Outcome
Introduction to OPCG	October 2008	Members understand role and remit
"Living Life to the Full" Project	October 2008	Feedback as to how the project may be useful for older people.
D&G Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	December 2008	Responses recorded and taken account of in final draft of both documents.
Your NHS Your Future Care	December 2008	Members aware of planned consultation process and main options under consideration.
Review of Home Care Services	December 2008	Broad understanding of the reason for the review and 2 members nominated for membership of Project Board.
Public and Community Transport	March 2009	Range of local transport issues raised with Officers attending and a letter sent to SWESTRANS re timetable changes
Personalisation in Social Care	June 2009	Feedback on questions raised to help inform development of Personalisation in D&G
Early Years Framework / Family Group Conferences	September 2009	Input into how to involve older people in communities. Further discussion to be arranged
Local Housing Strategy	September 2009	Input to papers on "Housing Needs and Demand Assessment" and Loreburn Housing Association "Housing for Older People" Report
Scottish Ambulance Service "Our Future Strategy" Consultation	September 2009	Written responses from members submitted as part of national consultation

## How to get involved

Anyone wanting further information about criteria for membership and how their group can become involved in OPCG should contact the Correspondence Secretary, Ann Stephenson, Corporate Commissioning Manager, Older People on 01387 260950 or e-mail: [Ann.Stephenson@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:Ann.Stephenson@dumgal.gov.uk)