

Development of an Older Persons' Assembly

The development of a new Older People's Assembly was envisaged as a means of lobbying for better people-centred services so that older people would be supported to co-design new services, strategies and policies.

The working party for the Older Persons' Assembly has met several times and consists of up to ten local older people as members. Meetings have been facilitated by Sue/Jess from TCDT but led by the members who have focussed on agreeing the functions of the assembly and developing a structure to facilitate the functions.

AIMS OF THE OLDER PERSONS' ASSEMBLY

- To portray ageing and older people in a positive light;
- Celebrate Positive Ageing;
- Support Torbay achieving Age Friendly Status

FUNCTIONS OF THE OLDER PERSONS' ASSEMBLY

1. To influence and steer decisions regarding services, strategies and policies, with the local authority, statutory and voluntary agencies, [through the Assembly having seats on the HWB and potentially attending statutory board meetings.](#)
2. To support the local authority, statutory, voluntary and private organisations to deliver the outcomes of the "Positive Ageing Strategy" and where necessary hold them to account.
3. To ensure that local older people have a role and the opportunity to share their knowledge and experience to improve current services.
4. To be the voice of local Older People, by ensuring that local concerns, needs, as well as suggestions and solutions are collated on a grass-roots community level, and used to identify themes for either further investigation or escalation by the Assembly or their focus groups.
5. To create and maintain clear channels of communication, which enable timely feedback on the impact of strategies and services or the escalation of concerns, and the dissemination of decisions and strategies to local people in accessible formats (including hard copies, on-line and audio).
6. To support and drive the local authority, statutory, voluntary and private organisations to achieve and maintain Age Friendly Status.
7. To be inclusive and represent the diversity of all older people across 'Bay.

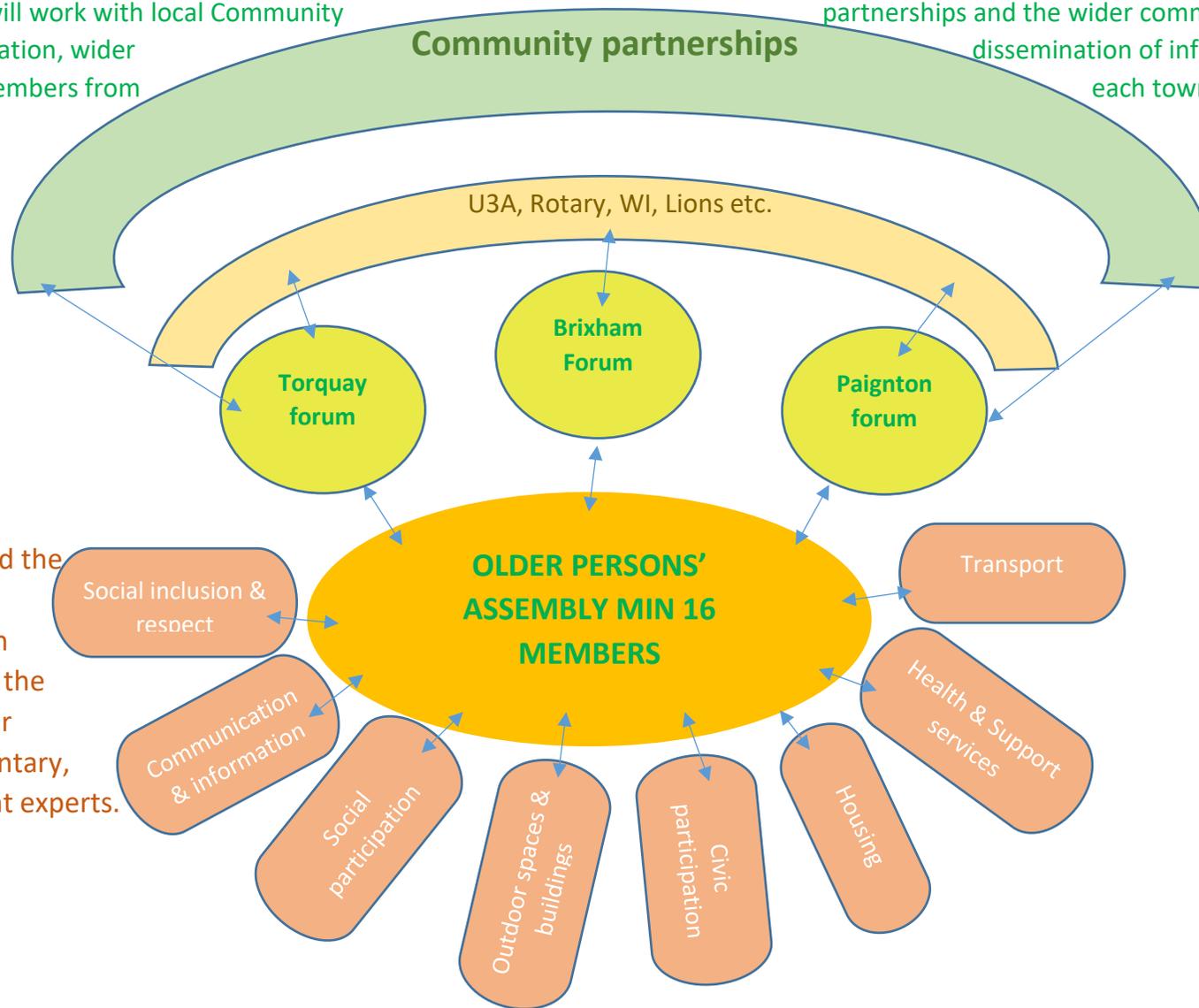
POTENTIAL STRUCTURE OF THE OLDER PERSONS' ASSEMBLY

Three town Forums will be set up to feed into the Assembly which will meet quarterly. The forums will work with local Community partnerships and the wider community of 50 plus to ensure there is optimum representation, communication of information and less duplication. The structure is still being finalised and visits to other Older People's forums has been arranged for September.

SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE OLDER PERSONS' ASSEMBLY

The three town Forums will work with local Community partnerships and the wider community of 50 plus to ensure there is better communication, wider dissemination of information and less duplication. At least 4 members from each town forum will sit on the assembly.

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Focus groups are around the Eight domains for Age Friendly status and each has two members from the Assembly, and wherever possible statutory, voluntary, business or independent experts.

Development a Positive Ageing Vision/Strategy

At the 'Big Vision Event' on 24th January 2018, there was overwhelming support to develop the Positive Ageing Vision/Strategy for Torbay, and for us to work together on this.

AWT's role has only been to facilitate a working group to finalise the Positive Ageing Vision, not to write the strategy or lead the work. The strategy working party group consists of at least 5 professionals from Public Health, Torbay Council and ICO, and 5 citizens and it has now met several times and began focussing on the development of a Positive Ageing Charter (as opposed to a strategy, which might sit on a shelf and not be actioned), as a first step towards Torbay becoming 'Age friendly'.

POSITIVE AGEING CHARTER

The Charter has gone through several iterations and this is the latest draft. The consensus was that finalisation should not happen without further involvement of the HWB, and that signing up to the Charter would mean a genuine commitment to the aspirations and the consequent responsibilities. In addition to the Charter, there are implied commitments and integral values.

Aspirations of the Positive Ageing Charter include:

1. **Challenging Ageism** through actively identifying Ageism in work practices, strategies or services and making the required changes **so that people are not excluded or discriminated against by virtue of their age.**
2. **Engaging Older People in the co-production of a better future through involvement of the Assembly with service/strategy development**, including initial consultations, service/strategy planning, review and re-design.
3. **Listening to older people** (i.e. through engaging with the assembly or Forums), **and including (the "voices" of older people) in decision-making processes** for all business, services and groups who serve over 50's in Torbay.
4. **Actively working with the Older Person's Assembly**, and relevant partners and evidencing a commitment **towards achieving 'Age Friendly Status' for Torbay by 2022**, and a commitment to maintaining the status once achieved.
5. **Commitment to improving communication**, by the timely sharing of information in plain English, and in accessible formats, **and welcoming the feedback or challenge from the Assembly** and using it to inform decision making.
6. **Demonstrating commitment to** services and practices which will **reduce the number of older people who are lonely or socially isolated, and/or in financial poverty.**
7. **Commitment to supporting and valuing the Older Persons' Assembly after Ageing Well Torbay ceases in April 2021.**

Positive Ageing Charter Key Commitments:

People are part of the Solution

- People don't just have issues and concerns they have knowledge, skills and life experiences.

Removing Barriers

- Giving the Assembly or the "voices" of older people a place and a role in decision making processes, for all business, services and groups who serve over 50's in Torbay
- Treating people as equal partners or stakeholders' whether they are older citizens, or from private, voluntary, or statutory sector and working together to co-produce and co-design.

Accountability

- All involved are accountable to each other and need to demonstrate a commitment to working together and resolving conflict.
- Businesses, statutory, third sector, community groups and individuals recognise an accountability to older people in Torbay through the Assembly.

Communication

- Communication is timely and information is shared in plain English, without jargon in accessible formats.
- Organisations make a commitment to listening to older people and keeping them updated and involved on everything which affects them, and demonstrate this commitment.

Age Friendly Status

- Achieving Age Friendly Status for Torbay is the central objective and commitment of the Positive Ageing Charter. The expectations around the 8 key areas of an Age Friendly Development plan will eventually be shared with organisations, business and groups who sign up to the Charter, so that they can identify the key areas in which their service or business could have a positive impact, and also let the assembly know how their activities, aims and outcomes contribute to those key areas.

Positive Ageing Charter - Values:

- **Openness and honesty regarding level of participation and power of the assembly voice** in planning, changes to services, and what resources exist and what's available.
- **Commitment to use all resources effectively and efficiently** and to avoid duplication as much as possible.
- **Creating a shift in culture** – more enabling and removing barriers so that individuals and across sectors and departments are able to help each other or work more collaboratively
- **Challenging current commissioning and moving towards collaborative commissioning**, reducing competition, creating opportunities, and flexibility.
- **Focus is strengths-based and positive.**
- **Voluntary, Charity and business sector need to step-up.** Statutory agencies are not the only ones who can 'bring something to the table'.
- **Inclusivity** – give everyone the opportunity to have a place to get involved.

What are the requests to the Health & Wellbeing Board?

1. For the HWB Board to recognise that the 'Positive Ageing Strategy' is a necessary step towards Age Friendly status.
2. For the HWB Board to strongly encourage each constituent agency member to put forward a Senior Responsible Person or non-Exec officer, to work on finalising the 'Positive Ageing Charter', including developing the 'how' and agreeing actions during the next 2 months.
3. For the HWB Board to ratify, and endorse the finalised 'Positive Ageing Charter', and to mandate individuals, departments and organisations to sign up to the Charter for the benefit of our residents.
4. For the HWB Board to give the Older Persons Assembly two seats on the HWB, demonstrating a commitment to Older People in the 'Bay, having an opportunity to influence and be involved in decisions regarding services, strategies and policies.
5. For the Assembly to be recognised by the HWB and its constituent members as a valued resource and mechanism to either inform the development of new services or policies or the review of existing services and strategies, within a realistic timeline.
6. The HWB agrees to hold constituent members to account in terms of the finalised 'Positive Ageing Charter' and to the Assembly.
7. For the HWB to agree to begin working in earnest with the Assembly and other partners towards Age Friendly Status.
8. For the HWB to encourage and support its constituent agencies to open their governing committees and boards, and provide at least one seat to an Assembly representative.
9. To support the development of an 'Age Friendly' kite mark which will endorse services and organisations that adopt the 'Positive Ageing Charter' values and guidelines.