

1. Introduction (50 words) – What? (project theme?), Who? (Which OSC/LA – any key partners?) Why? (what did the OSC/LA/partners want to achieve?)

A one day workshop began a dual dialogue between Scrutiny Members at Oldham and Rochdale Council and their partners to share their preparedness for the ageing society. 34 participants came from a wide range of organisations including 13 councillors, officers, including Directors and older people. They came from the local authorities, health, voluntary, transport, health and minority ethnic group organisations and the LINK. They included the chair of the local Adult Safeguarding Board and shadow Chair of a Health and Wellbeing Board.

2. Project plan (200 words) – describe the main elements of the work - tell the story about the work you did, what skills were used, what problems arose, how they were addressed?

Using an asset based approach, participants had conversations with as many different people as possible during the course of the day. They:

- Shared their stories of success about making a big difference to one or several older people to live well.
- They identified the common qualities their stories had in common, these were :
 - Participation & Communication
 - Simple things like exercise make a difference
 - Positive attitude & commitment
 - Working together
 - Empowerment
 - Realising that you can manage at times of difficulty/make a difference at different times
 - Community presence

They identified where they would like to be in 12 months time and what needs to be happen in order get there. They identified:

- Include more communities and diverse groups
- Sharing of services/venues i.e. joint Health and Wellbeing Board, Lift Centres being used as venues to access services, utilise existing resources
- More engagement between the young and old and share good practices
- BME Groups – identifying strengths and gaps and to determine how they can all have access to services
- Empowering people including those in care. Those who work with elderly people, help them to become solution focussed
- Joint commissioning board – bring commissioners and providers to service delivery

They started to work together on these areas.

3. USP (100 words) – were there any special attributes to the work – what made it interesting?

The success stories that were shared highlighted excellent examples of informal help that already exist in our communities and pointed to the importance of mutual support and strong relationships. Examples shared were through opening up of a facility, using existing facilities such as schools and the value of a small grant. The stories showed that both Boroughs have moved away from thinking about conventional social care services and recognises the support needed for better outcomes for older people to age well with less money available.

4. Key Learning Points (200 words) - highlight one or two things that they learned from the support provided by CfPS - useful tips for other areas or pitfalls to avoid

The Asset Based Approach was a good technique to use as part of this exercise to begin a dialogue between Oldham and Rochdale O&S Members and key partners around the ageing well agenda. A lot of background work was undertaken at the workshop which enabled an action plan to be developed to take this work forward. The day shared many success stories that were happening within our diverse communities which both Boroughs' could learn from. All participants at the workshop were very enthusiastic and contributed significantly to the day. Having an expert adviser to help facilitate the workshop enabled the work to be delivered in an innovative way moving away from conventional ways of undertaking O&S work. This could only be achieved through the support from the expert adviser and we will certainly be using this approach again at future workshops or during scrutiny reviews.

5. Early Impacts (100 words) – what signs of early impact – in terms of direct outcomes or changes in future approach

An informal Joint Scrutiny Study Group is being established, comprising an equal number of O&S Members from the two Councils, which also represent all political groups that make up the two Councils. The Group will receive expert advice from specialists working with older people including Adult Care Social Services of the two Councils, health services, representatives of appropriate community/voluntary organisations and older people. This group will make recommendations to their parent OSC bodies and eventually to Cabinet.

The workshop will be reconvened in a year's time to assess progress.

Partners from both Borough's have also initiated discussions to work jointly.