

Welsh Government
Consultation
Age Friendly Wales: Our Strategy for an Ageing Society

Consultation Response Form

Your name:	<i>ROBERT A ROBINSON MBE FRICS</i>
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Question 1: The Strategy sets out the areas we will prioritise in planning for our ageing society and why. Have we prioritised the right areas?

Comments:

The Association supports the view of the Welsh Government in the areas it has set out as it priorities.

However there is a need to give more details of what each area means – what is actually going to happen.

There have been many plans produced with little measurable outcomes which are of some concern to the Association.

There is a need to set out clear goals with detail and to bring forward actions over a programme which is delivered sooner rather than later.

Transport is a major consideration for older people who do not have personal transport.

Question 2: Are there any issues that are not reflected in the Strategy that you think should be considered when planning for an ageing society?

Comments:

No.

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Question 3: Have we identified the key policies and mechanisms that can deliver real change in the lives of older people today and future generations?

Comments:

The Association feels that the key policies have been identified. Delivery is another subject – often too complicated and takes too long.

To have a real effect there needs to be an identifiable task list which is regularly monitored to ensure it is working.

Question 4: Does the content amount to a sufficiently ambitious response to the major public policy issue of our ageing society?

Comments:

The Association is of the view that it is not too ambitious, the delivery of the current identified objectives are enough and can be added to when they are completed or working.

Question 5: Will the Strategy help to maximise the potential of the growing numbers of older people in our communities?

Comments:

Only if they are delivered in good time.

Question 6: Do you agree with our ambition to work towards an age friendly Wales? If so, please state what you, as an individual or organisation, are doing to help us to create an age friendly Wales.

Comments:

The Association supports the ambition to work towards an age friendly Wales. The Association supports any initiative that helps the elderly. Direct help is via the various members and member council's individually.

Question 7: How has Covid-19 changed your ability to do things that matter to you, or the way you deliver services to older people?

Comments:

A recognition has to be made in that not all older people either have the internet or do not know how to use it. Help for them in this advancing technological world is important.

The members of the Association have been working locally to help with this and other important community work such as delivery of food etc.

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Question 8: How can we involve older people in the re building our communities following the pandemic?

Comments:

To engage with older people is often difficult as they are fragmented into different groups and are not always keen to attend what they see a political meetings.

The best way to approach them is via visiting existing groups, offer to make presentations and listen to each group in turn.

Enabling existing groups to flourish through small grant aid schemes (revenue based) would have a big impact.

Welsh Government review of engagement
Questions for older people

Question 9: Are you a member of a 50+ group or forum? If yes, how successful do you think the forum is influencing local and national policy decisions?

Comments:

Not applicable as this response is being given by an Association.

Question 10: Does the 50+ forum benefit your local area in other ways? (Eg. by reducing social isolation or building community resilience?)

Comments:

Some time ago a Prime Minister said that he wanted to build the 'big society'. This has been in place for generations with various groups meeting often in age groups.

U3A does a great job with retired people keeping them active.

There are a number of groups who meet in the area for the elderly but we are not aware of any specific forum for them.

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Question 11: How do you think local and national government can better engage with older people?

Comments:

To engage with older people is often difficult as they are fragmented into different groups and are not always keen to attend what they see as political meetings.

The best way to approach them is via visiting existing groups, offer to make presentations and listen to each group in turn.

Questions for local authorities

Question 12: Does a 50+ Forum still operate in your area? If yes, how successful is it in involving older people in local decision making?

Comments:

See answer to question 11.

Question 13: Does your 50+ forum benefit your local area in other ways? (Eg. by reducing social isolation or building community resilience?)

Comments:

See answer to question 11.

Question 14: If a 50+ forum is not active in your local area, how do you engage with older people?

Comments:

See answer to question 11.

Question 15: We would like to know your views on the effects that the *Strategy for an Ageing Society* would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How positive effects could be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Comments:

The Association supports the Welsh Language but does not see the relevance of the question to this consultation.

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Question 16: Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy *Strategy for an Ageing Society* could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Comments:

None.

Question 17: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Comments:

Seniors should all benefit from increased income, not just those who were wise enough to save and put in place their own personal pension plans.

To achieve this a reduction in Council Tax for all seniors (perhaps not 100% but maybe 50% reduction). Many seniors are living alone and gain a 25% reduction in any event.

The link between older people and public transport is highlighted and emphasised as an important consideration.

The Association represents over 30 larger Town and Community Councils in North and Mid Wales and has been in existence for over 45 years.

The Association is willing to give oral evidence to any committee if that were felt to be of value.

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

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