

Sir Michael Lyons
Lyons Inquiry into Local Government
Room 3/12
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

UK Director
Mervyn Eastman

1490/06

19 September 2006

Lyons Enquiry into Local Government

Dear Sir Michael,

I am writing following your excellent seminar of last Tuesday on Adult Social Care issues. If I might say so I thought that the event was very successful and hope that you were given the assistance you were looking for from the participation of your invited audience.

My reason for writing is to reinforce the issue that I spoke to on a number of occasions during the course of the afternoon, namely the need to involve ordinary citizens far more in service, design, planning, delivery and review. I write particularly from the stand point of Better Government for Older People (BGOP) as an organisation of 500,000 people ages 50+ who wish to assist in the improvement of public services. BGOP and its partner The Older Person's Advisory Groups (OPAG) differ markedly from other age sector organisations in that we do not lobby or campaign for any particular service change or development. Our membership takes the stand point that public services are doing the best they can to deliver across the board but that they would be more successful if they were working in a true partnership with those for whom the services are intended.

In recent times much of this work has been done locally, particularly around CPA but we are nationally sponsored by the DWP working on Link Age+ the POPPS pilots, and in more recent times with the Cabinet Office on transformational approaches.

Apart from the significance of not being a specific lobbying organisation, we also take a stand point that the emphasis on public services for the over 50's should move away from one which concentrates on a deficit model to one which recognises that the ever growing number of older people have fit, healthy and useful lives and want to contribute. Too much public policy in the UK merely sees even healthy older age as simply an interlude before the inevitable vicissitudes of growing older impact negatively.

In Partnership with



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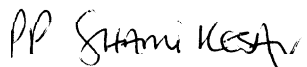
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The generation born at and immediately following the Second World War, the baby boomers, are quite unique in that we wish to be part of the solution to the issues of living in a mixed and changing community in the 21st century.

If there is any other way which BGOP or OPAG can contribute further to your review, particularly post to the publication of the report when hopefully the emphasis will move to improved delivery and well being, then we would be delighted to hear from you.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Druce'.

Nigel Druce O.B.E
Chair BGOP