

# **Wandsworth Older People's Forum**

## **Volunteer Policy 2007**

Wandsworth Older People's Forum is a charity whose aim is to represent the views of older people in Wandsworth to government, both national and local.

It is governed by a Management Committee elected each year at the AGM which meets monthly on first Tuesday of each month (except August and January). Members' meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except August) in the Anchor Church Centre, 273 Garratt Lane, SW18. The Forum facilitates the Network of Older People which runs conferences for representatives of all groups of older people twice a year. The Network has a Steering Group of about 20 representatives. The Forum is represented on a number of local committees which discuss various aspects of local policy.

The Forum, and the Network, is run by older people almost all of whom are volunteers. Older people join the Forum because they want to hear what the authorities plan for older people and also about plans for the general population which affect everyone old and young. Some decide to give more of their time to helping the Forum and Network in the Committee where decisions are made in response to consultations from Government and from the Council, Health Trust and Police. The programme of meetings and subjects for topics for the conferences are also discussed by the Committee. The newsletter is published quarterly with reports of meetings and other articles on topics of interest to older people. It has a volunteer editor and a small editorial committee.

The Forum believes that everyone has a contribution to make and a right to equal treatment and an equal say in how local services are run. Most of the volunteers in the Forum and Network are retired from full-time work but the Network Steering Group and Conferences also includes paid employees of local groups for older people. The Forum welcomes anyone who is interested in having a say on policies for older people and also anyone who is interested in helping older people to have a say or in organising activities.

The Forum therefore welcomes anyone, of whatever age, who might be interested in its work to join and help. An induction would be arranged and appropriate training can be made available and travel expenses can be paid.

Current needs are:-

- Help at members' meetings and conferences, sitting at the door for registration, laying out chairs and clearing away;
- Looking after the sound system which is a loudspeaker, roving microphone and loop and requires setting up and clearing away.
- Driving people to and from meetings;
- Writing articles and helping with the newsletter editorial and delivery work;
- Joining the Committee and representing older people at various meeting in Wandsworth and wider, eg on policing, health, transport, environment, etc.

*updated April 2017*