



Age Action Alliance

Monthly Highlights February 2014

Hello from the Secretariat Team

Our new style Monthly Highlights are intended to provide an overview of what's happened across the Alliance network this month.

Let us know what you think and if we've missed any Alliance activities you've been involved with or have planned: info@ageactionalliance.org

Best wishes,
Emily, Helen, Ken, Russell & Simon

Latest Members

- ✓ 36 new Members have joined us this month
- ✓ 2499 followers on Twitter
- ✓ 14 active Themes

Latest Activity

Themed Update

- ❖ **Concerned about electrical safety in the privately rented sector?** This was just one of the topics covered at a recent meeting of the Safe Warm Homes group:
 - The Electrical Safety Council led the discussion, providing members with details and literature from their recently launched campaign. Read their "Landlord's guide to electrical safety" by visiting our Resources [here](#).
 - Foundations updated group members on the recent launch of their report: [Independent Living Trust Evaluation](#).
 - The Departments for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Energy and Climate Change (DECC) updated members on developments in the Better Care Fund and fuel poverty strategy.
- ❖ **Never too late to learn new tricks** The Digital Inclusion Working Group met - virtually - on 27 February. The Age UK led consortium bid to the Big Lottery, as part of the digital skills initiative, was the main focus. While awaiting news on the first round, the group was able to also discuss the Government's draft digital inclusion strategy. A sub group will be formed to develop further some training materials that emerged following the launch of Age UK London's [Wealth of the Web](#) report.
- ❖ **Online Directory for Older People At Risk** Alliance members Linkline and Firststop have prepared a Pilot Action Plan for an online directory of secondary services for older people at risk of social exclusion. The plan, to operate in three London boroughs, will be discussed in detail at the next meeting of the Excluded Lives Working Group, to be held at University College London (UCL) on 6 March.

Visit us at: www.ageactionalliance.org
Follow us at: @AgeActAlliance #ageaction #joinAAA

Want to know more about what the Alliance Working Groups are up to?
Look out for more information on the relevant [Theme page](#) of our website.

Seminars & Other Events

- ❖ **Are You a Long Distance Carer?** Following the seminar chaired by My Ageing Parents, mentioned in January's Highlights, Alliance members have collaborated to produce a factsheet highlighting some of the difficulties which can be faced by those caring for friends or relatives from a distance. [The factsheet offers practical advice and helpful sources of information and can be downloaded from our Resources page here.](#)
- ❖ **A new image for the Alliance** Members of the Alliance Communications Group met to input ideas to further improve Alliance Communications. Our Monthly Highlights will now benefit from the expertise of members, after offers of volunteers to edit stories populated by the Secretariat. Also on the agenda was discussion of our Social Media Strategy and the development of the Alliance website to give us new images on the Home and Gallery pages, where photos shortlisted for the *All About Ageing* competition will be posted and made available for public use.

Latest Thinking

Got some good ideas? Been thinking them through within your organisation and with others? Then our [Latest Thinking blog](#) is the place to share it! This month we've heard your thoughts on:

- ✓ How to get out there and stay fit
- ✓ How to improve the online State Pension service
- ✓ Thoughts on key issues for older consumers
- ✓ Connecting the Unconnected – Bridging the Generation App
- ✓ The Big Sunday Lunch.

If you've got a story to share - good practice, solutions and achievements, especially where you've worked in partnership and maybe through the Alliance network - send us 350-500 words, plus a photo for the website and a catchy title, to: info@ageactionalliance.org

Latest Mentions

The Legacy Lives On As part of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Legacy, the Government recently published [Moving More, Living More](#). We were delighted the Alliance was cited, in particular the work of Alliance members Britdoc; Amateur Swimming Association; Age UK and recently launched AVONet Report.

Our Very Own Heat Hero Tony Watts, Chair of the SW Forum on Ageing - and member of the Alliance Partnership Development Group - has been awarded the title of *Heat Hero* by National Energy Action (NEA) and Scottish Power. Tony



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formed [Senior Buying Power](#) to help harness the buying power of senior citizens and collectively bring down the cost of heating oil. The award recognises the role of collective purchasing (negotiating the very best rates nationally) in helping combat fuel poverty which affects large numbers of older people, most susceptible to the cold. Tony will receive his award in the Houses of Parliament on 8 April.

Share your story with us

If you mention the Alliance, or you read or hear the Alliance mentioned somewhere, we'd love to hear about it! Email us at info@ageactionalliance.org