

*years ahead: the north east*  
**regional forum on ageing**

**Institute for**  
**Ageing and**  
**Health**

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September 2009

Dear Chair or Secretary,

**Affiliation to Years Ahead – the North East Regional Forum on Ageing**

I am writing as Chair of Years Ahead to invite your organisation to affiliate to the North East Regional Forum on Ageing. The Government has recently established mechanisms to improve engagement with older people and ensure that their voice is heard more strongly. They have set up a UK Advisory Forum on Ageing and are establishing or working with existing Regional Forums in each region. Years Ahead has been recognised as the Regional Forum on Ageing in the North East. The Forum was set up in 2005 to address the challenge of how the North East can be a flourishing, sustainable region with a population age-structure much older than that experienced by previous generations.

Years Ahead promotes the active involvement of older people in processes such as policy-making and planning which affects their lives. We send out regular communications to affiliated organisations about a wide range of issues being addressed at regional level by the Forum. Recent initiatives include health, arts and culture and older people, productive ageing and involvement in the regional research agenda. Affiliated organisations receive invitations to events put on by the Forum and its partners, and can request that specific issues or initiatives are considered by the Years Ahead Partnership Board for regional action. We are hoping that a large number of organisations run by or for older people will wish to join with us in these activities.

Affiliated organisations will also have the opportunity to nominate candidates to represent them on the Partnership Board which manages Years Ahead. There are eight positions for older people on the Board, together with eight representatives of statutory sector bodies and a further eight from Voluntary/Community Sector and related organisations. A call for nominations for Board members is planned for late November 2009 and affiliated organisations will receive details of this. The Partnership Board will then elect a representative to the UK Advisory Forum on Ageing which is chaired jointly by Ministers from the Department of Work and Pensions and the Department of Health. This enables issues of concern to organisations in this region to be raised at national level, and for national developments to be relayed rapidly to our regional and local networks.

Affiliation is completely free and all your organisation has to do is complete the short form attached and return it by post to Dr Lynne Corner at the address above or send it electronically to [Sarah.Armstrong2@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah.Armstrong2@ncl.ac.uk)

The North East is one of the most rapidly ageing regions of the UK but we believe that we have the capacity to work together to make it one of the very best places in which to grow old. I hope that you and your members will seriously consider affiliating to Years Ahead and helping us to achieve this goal.

Yours Sincerely,

Professor Jim Edwardson  
Chair – Years Ahead

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**Detach and send to Dr Lynne Corner, Years Ahead, Institute for Ageing and Health, Campus for Ageing and Vitality, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 5PL**

Name of affiliating organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address and contact details: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) of contact person(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Briefly describe the aims of your organisation:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Number of members in your organisation or people reached annually if you are not a membership organisation:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Does your organisation have a website? If so, please provide details. If you don't, but you have a brochure or report on your activities, we would be pleased to receive a copy.