



years ahead

the north east regional forum on ageing

'Grey Matters: Engaging the Intellectual Capital of Older People'

Thursday 24th April 2008, 9.30am – 3.30pm

Stadium of Light, Sunderland

Considerable public funding is spent on research to improve the health and well-being of older people and to underpin policies that impact in many areas of their lives. Engagement of older people as the 'consumers' of this research by universities and other public bodies is now seen as essential – "nothing about us, without us".

This conference will focus on some of the exciting opportunities developing in the North East for engagement in research programmes undertaken by our universities, NHS Trusts and other public bodies. It will include the launch of 'Older People and the Research Agenda' – a Task Group Report from *Years Ahead* which sets out a blueprint for harnessing the intellectual capital and experience of older people in our region.

It will also provide opportunity for older people to debate and inform recommendations for national policy and strategy arising from the next round of the Government's 'Foresight' project which seeks to harness future developments in science and technology to the needs of society.

The conference aims to further understanding of the current drive for greater public engagement; to discuss mechanisms for engagement by older people; to outline the major opportunities for such engagement in the North East; and to consider how this agenda should be taken forward.

The event should be of major interest to older people themselves and to those concerned with developing policies and services that affect older people. It will also be of interest to those working in research or those seeking to develop the 'knowledge economy' and the substantial business opportunities arising from ageing of the population and demographic change.

The conference is free, but registration is required.

Provisional Programme			
9.30 – 10.00	Registration and coffee on arrival	12.00 – 1.00	Lunch
10.00 – 10.10	Welcome Mrs Elsie Richardson, Vice Chair, <i>Years Ahead</i>	1.00 – 1.20	The policy context: how are older people involved? Kate Adams, Help the Aged
10.10 – 10.40	Open doors in the Ivory towers: a key role for public engagement Professor Jim Edwardson, Chair, <i>Years Ahead</i>	1.20 – 1.45	The Government 'Foresight' initiative: Well-being and older people Dr Katie Brittain, Lecturer in Social Gerontology, Newcastle University
10.40 – 11.00	Older People and the Research Agenda: the Years Ahead Task Group report and recommendations Professor Jan Reed, Chair, Task Group	1.45 – 3.00	Foresight recommendations: comment and feedback Round Table discussions
11.00 – 11.30	Beacons for Public Engagement Dr Tom Wakeford, Project Director – I-know	3.00 – 3.30	Taking things forward in the North East Dr Lynne Corner, Co-ordinator, <i>Years Ahead</i>
11.30 – 12.00	Why we need public and patient involvement: the North East Stroke Research programme Speaker TBA		

Further information about *Years Ahead* can be found at www.yearsahead.org.uk