



Cynghrair Pobl Hŷn Cymru Cymru Older People's Alliance

Summer 2025 Bulletin

Cymru Older People Alliance (COPA) is an independent charity in Wales run by older people for older people. The main objective of COPA is to enable older people in forums and groups across Wales to have an independent voice, ensuring their opinions are heard, acknowledged and acted upon, giving older people in Wales a strong national voice. We do this through a national self-determined voice for local people that feeds directly into both government and national public organisations. We have been operating as a charity since 2017 and have representatives of 16 forums across Wales and a wide range of partners.

Our main communications are through our website www.copacharity.com and our Facebook page. This Summer Bulletin summarizes the latest news and issues.

Comments and feedback are welcomed to Cymru.older.peoples.alliance@gmail.com

Contents

- Age Discrimination
- Age Friendly Communities
- Joint Older People's Conference
- Bus Services Bill
- Wales Toilet Alliance
- Poverty and Older People
- Senedd Elections 2026
- Vale of Glamorgan
- Swansea Intergenerational Project
- Banking Project
- Age Friendly Cardiff
- COPA Trustees

Age discrimination

COPA has promoted the need to raise awareness and understanding of ageism in our society with our [Age discrimination progress report](#). This has resulted in Welsh Government establishing a working group on a National Debate on Ageism in Wales of which COPA is a member. Further information will be available later in the year.

The British Society of Gerontology (BSG) has launched a Special Interest Group (SIG) on Ageism. It is chaired by the former Older People's Commissioner, Helena Herklots. The Special Interest Group on Ageism focuses on strengthening the links between research, policy and practice to improve understanding of ageism and its impacts, and to identify and promote effective interventions to combat ageism. The SIG is a forum for the exchange of ideas, learning and opportunities, connecting people with a passion for working collaboratively to end ageism. You can become a member by emailing at BSGAgeismSIG@britishgerontology.org.uk

Age Friendly Communities

The Welsh Government's latest Age Friendly Newsletter describes the progress is being made across Wales and highlights a range of new projects involving older people. COPA fully supports the development of Age Friendly communities and have outlined the improvements we would like to see in our [Age Friendly Communities Progress Report](#), including that the synergy between AFCs and the role of independent forums for older people should be maximized; application to and acceptance by WHO should be seen as a starting point, not promoted as a badge of success; more emphasis and commitment are needed on working with older people and local communities rather than working for them. COPA is watching developments across Wales.

Joint Older People's Conference

Following the successful [COPA Conference in Swansea](#) last November, we proposed a wider conference of all national pensioners organisations for 2025. Age Cymru has agreed to take the lead in collaboration with the four main organisations of older people (COPA, National Pensioners Convention Wales, Wales Seniors Forum and Active Wales) and a working group has been formed.

Further details about the date, venue and how to join including remotely will follow.

Bus Services Bill

The Welsh Government and Transport for Wales have published the [Bus Services \(Wales\) Bill Overview](#) consultation document to outline the proposed approach to bus reform in Wales. It sets out the case for reform, why change is needed and how better services will be achieved. Following the introduction of new legislation which will be debated in the coming months, a phased implementation is planned over a number of years. Bus services are one of the most important issues for older people and it will be important that your views and opinions are heard loudly on this issue over the coming year.

Please get in touch to let us know what you and your group/members think about these plans.

Wales Toilets Alliance

Following the campaign catching public interest and apparent support, including supportive comments from Eluned Morgan, unfortunately the UK and Welsh governments are not prepared to make the provision of toilets a statutory obligation, which has hampered progress.

Wales Seniors Forum concluded that they may have taken the campaign as far as possible on their own. Insofar as the lack of toilets is not a discreet problem for older people, Wales Seniors Forum has now become a leading part of the Wales Toilets Alliance, together with the likes of Crohn's and Colitis UK, The British Toilet Association, and other campaigning groups and charities, so that the fight can continue. COPA is also a member of the Alliance.

Please let us know your group/members' experiences of accessing and using public toilets.

Poverty and Older People

The [House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee](#) is running an [inquiry into pensioner poverty](#) in the UK. Which groups are most affected? What are the health impacts? How do the state pension and other pension age benefits mitigate the risks? What part is played by measures such as the Household Support Fund? How do these vary in the devolved nations? They want to find out what else is needed and how to improve access to and take-up of Pension Credit and other support. The Government's decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment eligibility and to hold a pensions review has raised the question of pension adequacy. The Committee held a roundtable event in Wales on 12 May and COPA were represented. Further updates on this work can be seen on the [Pensioner Poverty page](#) of the UK Parliament website.

Senedd Elections

As a registered charity, COPA is entirely politically impartial. We are however aiming to influence the content of manifestos for all political parties for the Welsh Senedd Elections in 2026 in respect of older people. The process has commenced for COPA to develop our own manifesto, and following discussion by the Board of Trustees, we have published [a draft for consultation](#). Comments are needed by 16 August.



Vale of Glamorgan

The Vale 50+ Strategy Forum would like to highlight the success of their community events which this year are themed in accordance with the priorities of the recently launched Age Friendly Vale Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2028 showing alignment of the Forum and Age Friendly movement in the Vale. These priorities are:

- People have a **sense of purpose**, feel respected and are actively engaged in their communities
- People are **well informed** about the support and opportunities available to them through a range of different types of **communication**
- People have access to suitable forms of **transport** across the Vale

The Forum contributes to several actions in the Action Plan particularly those related to enabling older people to have a voice, influence policy and decision making.

The Vale of Glamorgan had Dementia Day on 21/22 May in Barry and Penarth. Blue bags were given out to attendees at this library function. These contained information about help and support from organisations on hand to help and assist. The Barry Mayor, Dennis Clarke, was at the event to declare the function open to the public. Numerous stalls gave support and information.

Swansea Intergenerational Day

The new Collaboration Station, a city centre community space run by Swansea Council, recently played host to an intergenerational activity session. The session was designed to celebrate Intergenerational Week and brought together members from the Swansea 50+ Ageing Well and the Single Parents Wellbeing Group and their children.

On offer to the participants on the day was a wonderful buffet of sandwiches, tea and cake. Whilst providing the opportunity to mingle and compete in activities such as pool, darts and bar football. For those of a less competitive nature there was the chance for some personal grooming with hair styling and nail painting. An excellent time was had by all who attended.

Banking Project with Swansea University

COPA has agreed to collaborate in an exciting new research project to improve banking services for older people. The ongoing closure of physical bank branches has created significant barriers for many older adults in Wales who rely on these services. The innovative approach of DEFEND2 – developing an avatar-based digital banking kiosk that combines human-like interaction with digital security – directly addresses this concern. COPA looks forward to working with Swansea University and involving forums and groups of older people around Wales. The pilot for the project will be undertaken with the Swansea Ageing Well Forum. Further details to follow.

Age Friendly Cardiff

Here is some important information from Age Friendly Cardiff about the transition from Windows 10 to 11.

Microsoft is gradually phasing out support for Windows 10, with updates ending in **October 2025**. That means no more security updates or new features after that date. Windows 11 is designed to be more secure, faster, and easier to use.

What's new? And what's the same?

Windows 11 has a new look, with a centred Start menu and cleaner icons. But don't worry, familiar features like File Explorer, the taskbar, and the Recycle Bin are still there.



Will my programmes and files still be there?

Most apps and programs that work on Windows 10 will work just fine on Windows 11. Your documents, photos, and settings will carry over automatically during the upgrade. Although, it's always a good idea to back up your files — just in case.

Do I have to upgrade now?

Not immediately, but it's wise to plan ahead. If your computer is more than 5 or 6 years old, it might not meet the requirements for Windows 11. In that case, you can continue using Windows 10 until the upgrades end in October or consider options for a new device before then.

This information is relevant to all older people across Wales. For further advice and support, contact your local Age Friendly Communities lead or [Digital Communities Wales](#).

COPA Trustees

COPA has adopted a policy of appointing Elected and co-opted trustees on a rolling basis to replace individuals retiring or leaving. This is allowed in our Constitution and means we can adapt flexibly to prevailing circumstances when a suitable nominee is available and willing to join the COPA Board. If you are reading this Bulletin and would like apply to be a trustee or more generally to become involved in working with COPA, please get in touch on Cymru.older.peoples.alliance@gmail.com

Cymru Older People's Alliance

Ground Floor

Mariner's House

Trident Court

East Moors Road

Cardiff CF24 5TD

www.copacharity.com

Registered charity number 1174518

