Brexit – What Matters to You?
## Contents

### Context

- What has the third sector response to Brexit looked like in Scotland so far? 4
- What were the aims of our consultation? 5

### The Views of Local Communities in Scotland

- Do you have all the information you need? 6
- What information would help? 8
- What matters to you? 9

### The Views of Older People in Scotland

- How do you envisage older people will be affected by Brexit? 13
- What matters most to you, and to the people you care for? 15
- What information would be helpful – and in what format? 17
- What would help give voice to your ideas and concerns? 18

### Summary of Findings

### Appendices

- The Views of Local Communities in Scotland: Methodology 20
- The Views of Older People in Scotland: Methodology 21
The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) has taken a strong interest in the potential impact of Brexit following the in-out EU referendum in June 2016. In order to engage directly with members on this issue, the ALLIANCE conducted a survey which highlighted concerns about the possibility of people living with long term conditions, disabled people, unpaid carers, and third sector organisations being affected by the decision to leave the European Union.

Members expressed their fears about the post-Brexit future for charities and communities. Specific concerns were raised around the health and social care workforce, access to medicines, human rights, research and funding.

69% of respondents in 2016 felt that the impact of Brexit on the health and social care sector in Scotland would be negative. Specifically, members were worried that social care recruitment problems could be exacerbated after Brexit.

A recent Care Inspectorate report found that more than a third of social care services across Scotland have reported unfilled staff vacancies in the past year, and almost half of those faced difficulty recruiting the right staff. When you take into account that the health and social care sector in Scotland currently employs 12,000 non-UK EU nationals (3% of the total workforce), the potential impact of Brexit on the workforce is clear. The Nursing and Midwifery Council has recently released statistics which show that the number of non-UK EU nurses beginning work in the UK has fallen by 87%. At the same time, the number of non-UK EU nurses leaving the UK has been steadily rising since 2013/14. 47% of those surveyed last year said that ‘Brexit had encouraged (them) to consider working outside the UK.’

However, numbers alone do not tell the whole story. A Scottish Government report conducted using both quantitative and qualitative methods, sought the views of care service managers within the NHS. This survey found the belief that the contribution of non-UK EU workers was far greater than their basic numerical representation might suggest, with managers praising their ‘strong work ethic’ and ‘willingness to go the extra mile.’

ALLIANCE members were also concerned by suggestions that access to medicines could be hindered by Brexit. The Life Science Industry Coalition has advised that Brexit could create delays or shortages in the supply of both new and existing medicines if trade barriers are not resolved.

Respondents also raised human rights, research and funding as potential areas that could be affected by the vote to leave the European Union.

To address these issues, the ALLIANCE is currently promoting a Private Members Bill seeking to secure an independent evaluation of the effects of Brexit on the health and social care sector. 100 organisations from across the UK, many of which are members of the ALLIANCE, have now signed up in support of the Private Members Bill (at the time of publication).

The ALLIANCE’s engagement activity to date has expanded beyond health and social care as attendees have considered matters such as employment and housing within the context of their wellbeing. Consequently, questions evolved to include the social determinants of health: the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. These societal factors, the World Health Organization has shown, ‘are mostly responsible for the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries.’

This is particularly relevant in Scotland where health inequalities have contributed to the Glasgow Effect, where residents living within the same city now have starkly different life expectancies (for example, 54 years old for men in Calton and 82 years old for men in Lenzie).

With the knock-on effect of the social determinants of health in mind, any societal, financial or political considerations were allowed a place in our Brexit consultation.

---

1. Care Inspectorate, Staff Vacancies in Care Services 2016 (Published October 2017) http://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/4091/Staff%20Vacancies%20in%20care%20services%20in%202016%20-%20a%20statistical%20report.pdf
6. Ibid.
What has the third sector response to Brexit looked like in Scotland so far?

Recently, organisations across the third sector in Scotland have raised their own concerns about the potential impact of Brexit. Discussions have been very complex as the definition of Brexit remains fluid, changing day by day. Third sector organisations are united in their concerns about funding. The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) conducted a survey in 2017 which found that 86% of respondents feel that leaving the EU will harm the Scottish economy, with further negative implications for public spending, charity funding and public donations. The Directory of Social Change provided statistical backing for these fears, showing that charities in the UK benefitted from at least £258.4 million in EU funding in 2015, and that ‘the full amount is likely to be far higher due to the way many funds are distributed by intermediary agencies in the UK.’ Worryingly, Scotland’s charity sector was also shown to have received much more European funding relative to its population than that of Wales or Northern Ireland. As a result, any reduction or removal of this funding may have a greater effect.

SCVO’s survey also found that 81% of third sector organisations are worried about advances in human rights and equalities legislation being rolled back. As a result, more than 150 third sector organisations, including the ALLIANCE, have signed the Scotland Declaration on Human Rights. This demands that there is ‘no going back’ on existing rights, that there is ‘progression’ and rights are continually strengthened over time, that any changes to current protections are made transparently and that Scotland has a part to play in any significant changes to current standards.

Any regression of human rights could have a major impact on young people in Scotland. Together, the Scottish Alliance for Children’s Rights, has asserted that children’s rights are increasingly embedded within EU legislation and that these rights have not been adequately considered in Brexit discussions. If this is not addressed, there is a serious risk that many children with one parent within and another outside the European Union could lose specific legal protections in custody disputes. They have found that more than 10% (5,604) of all children born in Scotland in 2016 are at risk of losing legal protections in the areas of child custody, child abduction and child maintenance.

Similarly, YouthLink have highlighted a number of projects for young people in Scotland that could be affected by any changes to European funding. Erasmus is often raised as an example of this, however Xchange Scotland has received over €900k over the past 8 years through the European Social Fund. These programmes may now face financial uncertainty and ‘are being pushed to turn to corporate funders to continue to operate.’

Universities Scotland has found that non-UK EU workers account for 11% of all staff in Scotland’s 19 higher education institutions. Universities Scotland are particularly concerned about this as ‘the success of Scotland’s higher education sector is predicated on the ability to attract and retain talent from across the world.’ To counteract the idea that non-UK EU workers no longer feel welcome in Scotland after the vote to leave the European Union, SCVO have started a new campaign called EU are Valued. While the third sector can do little to influence immigration policy, SCVO argues that employers and employees in the third sector in Scotland can do more to encourage our EU friends and colleagues to stay and continue to make Scotland their home.

UNISON are concerned that Brexit could have a wider impact across the entire workforce in Scotland, particularly in the health and social care sector which is ‘already facing acute staff shortages.’ A significant proportion of these social care services are provided by third sector organisations in Scotland. As a caveat, UNISON admit that many of the labour market issues facing the health and social care sector pre-date Brexit. However, they foresee that Brexit will exacerbate these problems.

Following engagement with people across Scotland, the Scottish Government has published a report recently titled ‘What’s at Stake for Individuals in the Brexit Talks.’ The report provides a quick overview of five thematic areas: my prospects, my quality of life, my family, my community and my world.

Ministers in attendance at each of the consultation’s meetings used this as a background for their updates, giving context to the discussions that followed.

---

10 https://humanrightdeclaration.scot/
11 http://www.parliament.scot/General/Documents/YouthLink_Scotland.pdf
12 https://www.universities-scotland.ac.uk/brexit-beyond-prospects-eu-nationals-working-scottish-universities
14 http://www.unison-scotland.org/library/Brexit-health-committee.pdf
What were the aims of our consultation?

The Views of Local Communities in Scotland

Discussions around Brexit have rarely escaped the headlines. However, ALLIANCE members had expressed concerns that one part of society which had not been consulted was Scotland’s local communities. This oversight provided the motivation and background for the development of our initial local Town Hall Conversations.

The overall aims of the initial stages of our consultation were to:

★ Seek local views on Brexit and its potential impact on local communities, including voices that have been left out of the national debate thus far;

★ Examine particular themes in different communities, giving a different dimension to each conversation. For example, inequalities in Govan and employment in Falkirk;

★ And identify key issues and concerns about Brexit that can then feed into negotiations at a national level.

This consultation sought to give people a voice by asking local communities in Scotland three key questions:

★ Do you have all the information you need?

★ What information would help?

★ And what matters to you?

The Views of Older People in Scotland

Following on from the ALLIANCE’s Town Hall Conversations at the beginning of 2018, it was decided that a second consultation should explore the potential impact of Brexit on older people in Scotland. Collaborating with the International Foundation for Integrated Care and Scottish Care, this second strand of the consultation sought to:

★ Look at the impact of Brexit on older people;

★ Reach out to seldom heard voices;

★ And hear from those who care for older people.

In partnership with the International Foundation of Integrated Care and Scottish Care, Pop-Up Workshops were arranged at several national events and conferences. These gave staff who support older people, health and social care professionals and third sector representatives a chance to have their say on Brexit.

This engagement activity culminated in a final conference on 5 December at the Lighthouse in Glasgow.

To compare the views of older people with those of local communities, the four questions asked remained relatively unchanged:

★ How do you envisage older people will be affected by Brexit?

★ What matters most to you, and to the people you care for?

★ What information would be helpful – and in what format?

★ And what would help give voice to your ideas and concerns?

All views shared in both the first and second stages of this consultation have been summarised in the following report and have been submitted to Scottish Government Ministers.
The Views of Local Communities in Scotland

The following views were gathered from a series of local Town Hall Conversations. The ALLIANCE organised community discussions in Campbeltown, Govan, Falkirk and Aberdeen to pose the following three questions to respondents.

Do you have all the information you need?

Lack of Knowledge

Across each Town Hall Conversation local people made it very clear that they did not have all of the information that they either wanted or needed. Whilst this was asked as a direct question to participants (‘Do you have all the information you need?’), the strength of feeling around this issue resulted in this being raised as a part of each discussion.

At each Town Hall Conversation, and in response to each question, participants resoundingly told us that they did not have the information they needed to make an informed decision either before or after the vote.

Attendees felt that this may have had an effect on the vote itself.

Obstacles

Where information exists, people experience barriers to fully engaging with it. This includes access, the role of public representatives and a lack of transparency.

Access

A number of obstacles were highlighted by participants in an effort to explain this frustration.

People overwhelmingly agreed that the information that is currently available is not accessible enough.

Multiple attendees shared their opinion that ‘high level’ news coverage was causing people to become jaded and ‘switch off.’ There is a need to consider your audience and who you are trying to reach when conveying information, and attendees made it clear that this is not happening at the moment.

Alternatively, others argued that there is too much information – none of which is clear or detailed enough. This demonstrates the need to have a range of accessible information for different
people. What is crucial is to ensure that there are levels of information that everyone is able to engage with.

The Role of Public Representatives
It was suggested that public representatives at UK, Scottish and Local Government level have a responsibility to make sure that information is readily available and accessible. However, it was also noted that this may be a difficult task as the desired information may not be obtainable.

The idea of trust also arose in this conversation. Participants made it clear that they were not happy with how the debate around Brexit had been conducted so far and felt unsure of what sources of information they could and could not believe.

People seemed particularly wary of politicians during discussions, with many claiming to have felt ‘misled’ during the referendum campaign.

This was not unanimous, however, with some attendees still mentioning that they saw their local MPs, MSPs and Councillors as their most trustworthy sources of information.

Transparency
To counteract how others felt, however, it was suggested that politicians could be more transparent about where we stand.

People felt very frustrated by the lack of clarity around the current debate. They were unsure of what the UK Government was looking to achieve with its Brexit negotiations and felt that this was causing an unnecessary degree of uncertainty.

However, it was noted that politicians and the media do not have sole responsibility for raising awareness of the impact of Brexit. Word of mouth is still a powerful tool and it was felt that local communities could do more to get involved.
What information would help?

**Personal Impact**

Attendees were very unsure of how they are personally going to be affected by Brexit. It was suggested during one table discussion in **Govan** that a Brexit Calculator could be created – in a similar vein to Benefits Calculators.

This suggestion demonstrates the degree of anxiety in communities, as well as the level of detail that people are demanding at a time when nothing feels certain.

People want more clarity over how they are going to be affected financially, and whether or not inequality is going to become more entrenched post-Brexit. There was a concern that areas such as **Govan** could be disproportionately affected.

**Government Stance**

Table discussions also revealed frustration at the UK Government’s negotiating stance, with attendees unclear of what the Government was trying to achieve in its final deal with the European Union.

This lack of clarity also raised questions about how the Scottish workforce would be affected, with potential knock-on effects on the labour market and industry.

**Social Impact**

Questions were also raised, in turn, about the potential impact on the health and social care sector in Scotland, and how it would cope if it were to lose its non-UK EU workers.

People wanted more information on the future of funding, with attendees questioning whether the UK or Scottish Government would hold responsibility for replacing existing European commitments.

This is still unclear, with little detail having been published about the UK Government’s proposed Shared Prosperity Fund. This gives Scotland’s third sector the chance to lobby the UK Government and help shape its creation.

**Methods of Communication**

Attendees commented that Town Hall meetings such as those held in **Campbeltown, Govan, Falkirk** and **Aberdeen** were a good way to involve communities and convey information in a simple and interactive manner. People seemed very happy to be given the opportunity to share their opinion with each of the Cabinet Secretaries or Ministers in attendance, and to know that their contributions would have an influence on Scotland’s negotiating stance.

However, others expressed the view that they can have a tendency to hold back opinions within groups that are too large. In this case, smaller groups were suggested to allow less vocal attendees to ask questions.

Written publications were also suggested as a good method of communication. However, it was agreed during table discussions that these should be as accessible as possible, avoiding jargon and acronyms wherever possible.

Any publications should follow the guidelines set out by attendees in the previous section – avoiding any of the potential obstacles outlined by participants. Information should be concise, accessible and clear.
What matters to you?

When asked ‘What Matters to You?’ five key themes emerged during the ALLIANCE’s Town Hall Conversations:

★ Health and Social Care;
★ Rights and Regulation;
★ Finance and Funding;
★ Identity;
★ And Young People.

Health and Social Care

The first of these thematic areas was Scotland’s health and social care sector. In particular, people were concerned that current staffing shortages could be worsened post-Brexit.

With an elderly population, attendees in Campbeltown voiced their concerns that rural areas could be disproportionately affected by any reduction in the health and social care workforce.

As a result of staffing shortages, organisations in rural areas are already having to recruit from cities elsewhere (such as Glasgow), incurring agency costs in the process. Attendees in Campbeltown feared, with staffing levels already falling following the vote to leave the European Union, that this problem may be exacerbated.

One attendee in Govan relied on alternative medicines rather than pharmaceutical medicines to manage her long term condition.

In this instance, Brexit may hinder the choices available to people living with long term conditions in Scotland. It was suggested that local communities would have to find their own ways to try and minimise any negative repercussions from Brexit.

‘There are local alternatives to mitigating the impact of Brexit. People would have to assess what the issues are in their community.’

To do so, however, the realities of Brexit will first have to become clearer.

Rights and Regulation

The protection of human rights was also a key concern during table discussions at the ALLIANCE’s Town Hall Conversations.

Employment rights, LGBT rights, consumer rights, environmental protections and workplace regulations were amongst those points raised by attendees during discussions.

Related to the rights of UK workers, attendees were worried about the status of non-UK EU workers currently residing in Scotland.

‘Our employment rights could potentially be further eroded. Losing the working time directive could have a huge impact on our professional life.’

‘There is a campaign against these alternatives, to try to have these banned in the UK. I am very concerned that there is support in the EU but not in the UK.’

People were unsure if freedom of movement would continue, or if non-UK EU workers would be allowed to continue living here and contributing to their communities.

However, it was also pointed out that UK workers have much to offer the European labour market too, and that UK workers would be losing out if they no longer had the ability to work in the European Union.
On a personal note, too, it was noted that ending freedom of movement could have an immense effect on people’s family lives.

This attendee’s fears chime with the concerns of Together, the Scottish Alliance for Children’s Rights, who noted that families with parents from in and outside the European Union could have their rights infringed.

Attendees were also worried that environmental protections could be rolled back following Brexit.

And in Falkirk, where the issue is a hot topic locally, questions were asked about fracking and whether or not regulations would be relaxed following Brexit.

People appeared to be concerned that decision-making could become more centralised following Brexit, taking these choices away from local communities.

**Finance and Funding**

There was interest in hearing about how Brexit would affect individuals financially, with attendees in Falkirk and Govan raising questions about a potential impact on inequality having noted increases in foodbank usage in the area.

People were also concerned about how Brexit’s effect on the Scottish economy could impact upon them directly.

A loss of EU funding, it was argued, could hinder projects that support people living with long term conditions in Scotland.

There were also suggestions that voluntary organisations in local communities could struggle without EU funding.

And attendees were also worried that the third sector in Scotland may struggle in the wake of Brexit.

It was argued that ‘the third sector is already being asked ‘to do a lot with very little,’ and that to withdraw further funding previously available from the European Union could seriously impact upon charities and the people they support.

Participants in Falkirk shared the view that we need to get back to the basics.
Communities were less worried about what they saw as big ticket items such as trade but were more concerned with how Brexit would directly impact upon their daily lives. This was a view expressed at each Town Hall Conversation with one attendee in Campbeltown claiming that ‘if it doesn’t affect you, you won’t care.’

**Identity**

Identity was also very important to the people that attended local Town Hall Conversations. As a part of this discussion, an attendee shared her experience of moving to Scotland from another EU country. She resented the idea of being referred to during discussions as ‘a part of a workforce’ rather than as a person.

This also raised the question of European identity.

People were very worried about the prospect of having to lose this aspect of their identity. One attendee shared her frustration that ‘no dual nationality is available... people are having to choose.’

It was also observed that discrimination in Scotland may have worsened since the vote to leave the European Union, with previously taboo views now moving into the mainstream.

There was also concern that Brexit may negatively affect Scotland’s relationship with other countries, potentially making these ties more unstable.

Attendees believed that this may also stretch to Scotland’s relationship with the UK Government too, affecting the devolution settlement. This was a key talking point at the Town Hall Conversation in Falkirk, which followed a vote earlier in the day for the Scottish Government to withhold its consent for the Repeal Bill.

Attendees were very concerned about the possibility that Brexit could be used to reduce the powers the Scottish Government currently has at its disposal.

There were questions of which powers would come to Scotland from the European Union, which would remain with the UK Government, and whether Scotland would have control over areas such as fishing and fracking.

**Young People**

The impact of Brexit on young people was raised during each discussion, with parents worried that their children would not be offered the same opportunities in the future as they have had – such as the ability to work abroad.

A mother in Campbeltown began a discussion by asking, in the Year of Young People, whether or not young people are still being given a voice.

People were very concerned about the possibility that Brexit could be used to reduce the powers the Scottish Government currently has at its disposal.

Young people were incredibly engaged at the time of the EU referendum. However, my 21 year old daughter now describes “confusion and clutter.” She says she’d love to be more involved in this, but it confuses her and nothing is making sense. Young people’s enthusiasm from the vote has faded out.’

There was a concern that the standard of the debate during the referendum, and the overwhelming feeling of uncertainty since, had caused young people to ‘switch off.’ There were also questions as to whether or not enough had been done to bring young people into conversations. It was suggested that a combination of these factors could have caused young people to become disillusioned.
Attendees felt it was crucial that young people are given a voice, particular young non-UK EU nationals who have now settled and have a lot to offer Scotland.

Beyond youth engagement, one of the key concerns raised was the potential impact on Universities and Higher Education.

It was suggested at the Town Hall Conversation in Aberdeen that Brexit was already having an effect on the number of students seeking to apply to attend universities in Scotland.

However, attendees believed that this decline in the number of students would have a wider impact beyond the university sector itself. Although this would directly impact upon universities and the level of funding they receive, the third sector and health and social care are also very dependent on the contribution of Universities and Higher Education.

This illustrates the knock-on effect of Brexit quite well. If Universities are unable to perform well post-Brexit, then this may have an impact on the third sector and health and social care, which may in turn have a further impact on other sectors in Scotland.

‘The second generation of EU nationals is very important to Scotland – many were born here and can contribute.’

‘It is important to see the third sector as a community, and that includes universities.’

‘Student numbers are already falling partially as a result of Brexit. This is impacting on investment to the sector... Universities help to provide evidence bases for the third sector, support for health and social care, and are a good source of volunteers.’
The Views of Older People in Scotland

The following views were gathered from a series of Pop-Up Workshops followed by a final conference. The ALLIANCE, in partnership with the International Foundation for Integrated Care and Scottish Care, engaged with older people, carers and staff working for organisations who support older people to pose the following four questions.

How do you envisage older people will be affected by Brexit?

When asked about the impact of Brexit on older people, five key themes emerged during our engagement activity:

- An overwhelming sense of uncertainty;
- A rise in ageism and division;
- Day to day finances, universal benefits, savings and pensions;
- The health and social care workforce and access to medicines;
- And potential opportunities which Brexit could offer.

Uncertainty

A feeling of uncertainty crept into every discussion, regardless of the question that had been asked, echoing comments from our earlier Town Hall Conversations. People who engaged with the consultation said that they were very unsure of how older people in Scotland will be affected by Brexit.

It was suggested that this uncertainty is hindering peoples’ ability to plan ahead. However, people were most concerned about the everyday impact of Brexit. This included the ability to travel following Brexit and the right to reciprocal healthcare in non-UK EU countries. People also questioned whether or not they would still be able to live abroad following Brexit and expressed concern about the implications for those returning.

Division

Attendees felt that ageism in Scotland had intensified since the vote to leave the European Union. The media narrative following the referendum had stereotyped all older voters as supporters of Brexit, blaming the outcome of the vote on a single generation and making ageism more acceptable.

Older people told the consultation that this stereotyping felt unfair when they feel incredibly vulnerable to Brexit, that they ‘are unable to mitigate the effects as well as younger people,’ and that they ‘are more likely to be affected negatively.’

People felt they had been stereotyped, whether they had voted in favour of Brexit or not, and resented suggestions that had been made that older voters should be disenfranchised in the event of a second referendum.

Participants shared that they have found the whole discussion around Brexit to be overwhelming and that they ‘are not used to talking about (their) health or how (they) vote.’ They said that this has led them to hold their views more privately and begin to retreat from public discussions.

Further to age related division, attendees suggested that Brexit had created an atmosphere of individualism and competition whereby the uncertainty and insecurity around the potential impact of Brexit had led people to think introspectively rather than as a community.
**Finances**

It was felt that the financial implications of Brexit had not been made clear before the vote and that a ‘lower GDP would lead to less public money’ available to spend on older people.

There were concerns that Brexit could impact upon older people’s finances, increasing poverty in Scotland. Fears were raised that this could lead to existing austerity being intensified.

Specifically, the loss of any universal benefits as a result of a shrinking public purse was raised as a concern. Older people were particularly concerned about universal benefits such as bus passes which have been a valuable means of ensuring they remain connected with their communities. While there is no direct link between the European Union and bus passes in Scotland, participants spoke about the indirect implications of financial restrictions and efficiency savings as a result of Brexit.

Concerns were also raised about savings and pensions with the value of the pound impacting upon people’s security. This could then have a knock-on effect on loneliness and social isolation.

Others were more optimistic, sharing the view that ‘investments might be affected but life will go on.’

**Health and Social Care**

There was significant concern among attendees around the impact that Brexit will have on health and social care services. This was a key theme during the ALLIANCE’s Town Hall Conversations, but was brought into sharper focus here due to the increased interaction with health and social care services of older people.

The most serious impact could be on the health and social care sector’s workforce. It was argued that the NHS is unable to cope with demand as things stand and that any extra workforce pressures would only exacerbate this.

Attendees at the consultation’s final conference noted that despite an increase in the number of nursing students in Scotland, this had not been enough to meet the demands of an ageing population. Particularly when taking into account the number of nurses who are retiring or leaving the profession due to low morale or burnout. Participants worried that Brexit may worsen this existing situation if non-UK EU workers were to leave the country or UK nationals living abroad were to return.

This could have a knock-on effect on older people’s ability to self-manage and live independently.

However, participants noted that balance is required. It was felt that discussions around health and social care (particularly around food and medicines supply) had descended into ‘scaremongering.’

**Opportunities**

Several potential opportunities for older people were raised, with claims that a lack of balance and a ‘focus on fears’ alone had prevented people from discussing any positives.

It was suggested that Brexit may provide an opportunity to review and guarantee training standards within the health and social care sector, something that has been raised by the General Medical Council previously. Attendees also suggested the need for more staff in the health and social care sector may reduce unemployment in Scotland as a result of the ‘need to create our own workforce.’

It was also suggested that fewer layers of government may increase political accountability.

However, amongst those attendees who raised the possible opportunities of Brexit, there was always a caveat that ‘a cross-party approach to Brexit would have been ideal’ and that the debate over the last year has become far too politicised.

---

What matters most to you, and to the people you care for?

When asked ‘What Matters to You?’ five key themes emerged during our engagement activity:

- Clear planning and certainty;
- Security for older people, their families and their children;
- Health, social care and the role of carers;
- Continued access to rights and independence;
- And the importance of cultural exchange.

**Certainty**

Older people shared the view that to bring about a greater degree of certainty, clear planning is required going forward – something they do not feel has taken place yet.

This should involve guaranteeing the basic rights of EU citizens who are already living in Scotland, and for people living elsewhere in the EU.

Continuity is crucial in bringing about the certainty that people are looking for. It was suggested that some older people with long term conditions may already be struggling with uncertainty and confusion, and that ‘the current situation is only increasing this and triggering mental health issues.’

**Security**

The majority of people the consultation engaged with highlighted the ability to feel secure as one of the things that mattered most to them.

This included the ability to cope with periods of ill health. However, it was acknowledged that there will be a shared impact beyond a single generation alone. For example, any financial implications for children may have a consequent impact upon any older people who look after them.

Independence was also raised as a key concern, with older people in attendance at our final conference mentioning the ability to stay in their own home without getting lonely as one of the things that mattered to them most.

People were not only concerned with their own security, however, and were also worried about Scotland’s ability to protect vulnerable people in the wake of Brexit.

**Health**

Health matters greatly to older people in Scotland.

Older people are concerned that access to health and social care services may be affected, particularly in rural areas.

They are anxious that the cost of social care is met, to ensure that people are still able to remain healthy at home. And that there is no change to the funding of end of life care, to ensure that people are allowed dignity in their last days.

The consultation also heard praise for carers and everyone who cares for older people. However, this was accompanied by assertions that funding should be maintained following Brexit to ensure staff remain well trained.

**Rights**

Rights are also incredibly important to older people in Scotland. People who engaged with the consultation were concerned that human rights could be ‘eroded through a lack of scrutiny or checks and balances’ following Brexit.

This could, in turn, have a significant impact on older people and their ability to live independently. Participants listed independence, feeling listened to and feeling valued and respected among the things that mattered to them most. These rights are all guaranteed by existing legislation such as the Equality Act, however there is concern that this could be at risk following Brexit.
Travel and Culture
As above, freedom of movement was raised by many people with whom the consultation came into contact. Any changes to existing agreements may impact upon people’s ability to live, study or simply enjoy a trip abroad. It was argued that this all feeds into a cultural exchange.
People also argued that lifestyle at home may be at risk, highlighting access to green spaces as a possible area for concern with many public spaces relying on funding from the EU.
What information would be helpful – and in what format?

When asked what information would be helpful, respondents highlighted the following subject areas:

- The personal impact of Brexit;
- Balance in media and political reporting;
- The role of the third sector;
- And the importance of accessibility.

**Personal Impact**

There was a real appetite during discussions for in-depth analysis of how older people would be affected at an individual level by Brexit.

People are looking for evidence-based information, detailing the ‘pros and cons’ of leaving the European Union. This should detail how individuals will be affected, with pension payments being mentioned as an example of something that requires greater clarity.

It was agreed that more information would be helpful ‘on most issues’ and ‘in any format.’ However, people told the consultation that what is really needed is knowledge of the longer term impact ‘20 to 40 years down the line.’ This demonstrates the cross-generational impact of Brexit, with older people concerned about the long term wellbeing of their families.

**Balance**

There is a demand for greater balance in information delivery, both in the media and on the political stage.

There was a clear perception that, in retrospect, the media had not been honest in its portrayal of the impact of Brexit on older people.

A real lack of trust was noticeable during discussions, with many participants who took part in the consultation’s written survey answering the question of what information they would find helpful by simply writing ‘truth.’

Calls were made for factual information that could be used to inform older people in Scotland, as well as information that took a more neutral political perspective.

**Role of the Third Sector**

It was generally agreed that the third sector has a role to play in the delivery of this impartial information. Several attendees noted that more events are needed in the mould of the consultation’s final conference – both to share their own view and to become more informed on the topic.

It was also noted that more information prior to the vote would have been helpful in order to help people make an informed choice.

And the challenge of reaching seldom heard voices was discussed, a challenge that can be met by Scotland’s third sector.

**Accessibility**

For those who are least likely to engage, it was mentioned that it may be most fruitful to ‘be more proactive’ and go to places people will already be (such as GP surgeries, libraries, or lunch clubs), rather than attempting to collect an audience in a single room.

Accessibility is crucial if Scotland’s seldom heard voices are to be heard. Attendees all agreed on the need for straightforward, easy-read information. However, different needs and requirements must be taken into account. It was stated that people have not been provided with the information they need relating to Brexit for a range of reasons.

To address this, different kinds of information are required for different people in ‘a range of accessible formats,’ with ‘pictorial’ information, braille and sign language being mentioned as possible solutions.

Rural concerns should also be taken into account. Technology may be used to connect people who are otherwise unable to take part in consultations and have their voices heard. However, this cannot be the only means of taking part as not all older people will have access to technology. IT literacy should also be accounted for to balance this approach.
What would help give voice to your ideas and concerns?

When asked how they can be given a greater say in the Brexit process, respondents highlighted three key areas:

★ Good engagement work that promotes the views of older people;
★ The importance of developing and maintaining networks;
★ And improved communication and transparency from public representatives.

Engagement

It was generally agreed that there had not been enough engagement work to allow people to plan for the future following the vote to leave the European Union in 2016. Those at the conference also expressed the opinion that more consultations were required to capture older people’s views.

A number of attendees expressed the opinion that more consultations were required to capture older people’s views.

Networks

Attendees also spoke about the importance of networks as a means of giving people a voice. Networks can be useful in terms of sharing information as well as spreading awareness of further services that are available.

On a related note, people shared the opinion that better funding should be made available for older people’s organisations to mitigate the negative impacts of Brexit. The third sector has a key role to play in helping to deliver services that benefit older people and connect communities.

Transparency

People who engaged with the consultation strongly expressed the view that older people in Scotland are currently being ignored, and that they will not be able to have their voices heard without greater transparency.

It was argued that all politicians have a responsibility to inform. Improved communication and an acknowledgement of politicians’ intentions is required to address this.

It was argued that Brexit should not be driven by one political party alone, and that cross-party support is required to bring about the transparency that people are looking for. Most importantly, however, it was argued that ‘people need to be straight with us’ and that older people in Scotland need ‘direct answers to direct questions.’ The consultation was told that expectations had been lowered, and that older people no longer anticipated ‘that they should reasonably expect to have answers to their questions.’
General themes emerged from across all of the engagement events. Older people in Scotland seemed to overwhelmingly share the views of local communities, with both groups highlighting the following as the things that mattered to them most:

- Health and Social Care;
- Finances;
- Rights;
- Culture;
- Engagement;
- And Certainty.

People who engaged with the consultation were concerned about the potential impact of Brexit on the health and social care sector, with specific fears about future funding, workforce pressures and access to medicines.

Personal finance was also very important. The prospect of pensions and savings being affected was raised, but there were also broader fears that austerity may be intensified leading ‘the poorest (to) take the brunt of (Brexit).’

People were concerned human rights may be rolled back following Brexit as a result of reduced ‘scrutiny or checks and balances,’ which could impact upon people’s ability to live well independently.

Culture is also seen to be very important, with participants highlighting all that can be gained from living, studying and travelling throughout the European Union.

The importance of good engagement work was also raised. People want the opportunity to have their voices heard. However, there were also calls to empower people and give them the confidence to use existing platforms.

The importance of certainty was the most commonly raised point during discussions. Fears over the uncertainty caused by Brexit crept into every discussion, regardless of the question that had been asked.

This demonstrates that a great deal of the concerns detailed in this report are not limited to one age group alone. In both engagement groups what matters to people was relatively similar.

There were still some unique insights, however, in the views that were shared by older people, including discussions around:

- Opportunities;
- Division;
- Balance;
- Networks;
- And Security.

Older people were more likely to see potential opportunities in Brexit, particularly around training standards in the NHS.

However, this was far from the consensus, with the older people who engaged with this consultation resenting being stereotyped as supporters of Brexit. They were particularly concerned about the prospect of growing division in Scotland as a result of the EU referendum, describing experiences of ageism and discrimination.

There were also demands for greater balance in the media (which was blamed for playing a role in the stereotyping of older people) and on the political stage. Older people told the consultation that a lack of balance had caused distrust in sources of information, with the third sector noted as a potential source of neutral information.

Older people also highlighted the importance of networks in building community connections and sharing information.

However, the most common theme amongst older people was the value of security, including the ability to live independently, plan for the future and cope with periods of ill health.

**Older people were not only worried about their own wellbeing, however, and also stressed the importance of security for them, for their families and for their children. This illustrates the cross-generational impact of Brexit, with any impact on younger generations affecting the wellbeing of older people in Scotland and vice versa. In this sense, the effects of Brexit will be shared across communities and across generations.**
Brexit – What Matters to You?

The Views of Local Communities in Scotland: Methodology

The ALLIANCE held four Local Town Hall Conversations in Campbeltown, Govan, Falkirk and Aberdeen.

Each event began with an update from the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary or Minister in attendance, which was followed by a question and answer session.

- Michael Russell MSP, (the Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations) took questions from attendees in Campbeltown and Govan;
- Fiona Hyslop MSP (the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs) took questions from attendees in Falkirk;
- And Maureen Watt MSP (the former Minister for Mental Health) took questions from attendees in Aberdeen.

This provided the first opportunity for the consultation to gauge which issues were most important to each community.

Following the question and answer session small tables of attendees were asked three questions:

- Within the context of Brexit discussions, what are the two most important issues in your community?
- Thinking about Brexit, do you have all the information that you need? And if not, what further information would help?
- And, going forward in relation to Brexit, what would be important to your community?

Facilitators then guided the attendees through these questions, which provided the bulk of the evidence for this publication. Attendees were not made to rigidly stick to these themes, however, and were given a chance to have their say on any issues related to Brexit.

Attendees were also given the chance to answer each question anonymously and place it into a ‘Have Your Say’ box. This box was also used for an anonymous questionnaire, provided to attendees at the end of each Town Hall Conversation. This sought to discover whether people felt their voice had been heard on the night, which questions they would recommend asking at future events, how they voted in the referendum, whether their vote would now be different, and if there were any additional comments they had.

Additionally, the ALLIANCE held a pair of morning and afternoon workshops at its Annual Conference in what was called the ‘Brexit Zone.’ These workshops took place after the first three Town Hall Conversations had already taken place, meaning attendees at the Annual Conference could both hear what had been learned up to that point whilst being given an opportunity to have their own say.

Alison Culpan (Director of ABPI Scotland), Dave Watson (Head of Policy and Public Affairs at UNISON Scotland), and Michael Russell MSP (the Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations) all spoke with Conference attendees before taking questions.

Additionally, everyone who attended the Annual Conference received a ‘Brexit as you Exit’ card. These cards asked people how they rated the impact of Brexit on themselves and their family, their organisation, their community and Scotland. This was a useful opportunity that gave people a chance to have their say and take part in the consultation without having attended any of the Brexit Workshops or Local Town Hall Conversations.

Appendices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campbeltown</td>
<td>Rural Communities</td>
<td>15th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govan</td>
<td>Inequalities</td>
<td>30th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falkirk</td>
<td>Employment and Cohesion</td>
<td>15th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>Coastal Communities</td>
<td>21st May</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Views of Older People in Scotland: Methodology

A combination of approaches was taken during this consultation to guarantee as wide a range of views as possible. The first strand of the partnership’s engagement activity took the form of Pop-Up Workshops. These Pop-Up Workshops took place at a number of national conferences including:

★ The British Geriatrics Society Autumn Meeting;
★ Scottish Care’s Annual Care Home Exhibition, Conference and Awards;
★ And Scotland’s Annual Digital Health and Social Care Conference.

This gave the consultation the opportunity to reach different groups of professionals with different interests and expertise (from home care to digital technology). However, the Pop-Up Workshops were not aimed at professionals exclusively and were also able to capture the views of carers and people with lived experience.

Efforts were also made to engage with the seldom heard voices in our communities: people who may have something to say but would not usually attend a workshop or conference.

The consultation culminated in a final conference on the 5th December 2018 at the Lighthouse in Glasgow, where the ALLIANCE were joined by the International Foundation for Integrated Care, Scottish Care and Graeme Dey MSP (the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans).

Graeme Dey MSP began the day by making a short speech giving context to the day’s discussions, before taking questions from attendees. Attendees were then given time to answer the following four questions:

★ How do you envisage older people will be affected by Brexit?
★ What matters most to you, and to the people you care for?
★ What information would be helpful – and in what format?
★ What would help give voice to your ideas and concerns?

The feedback from the conference was then collated alongside our other findings, feeding into this final report.
The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) is the national third sector intermediary for a range of health and social care organisations. The ALLIANCE has over 2,500 members including large, national support providers as well as small, local volunteer-led groups and people who are disabled, living with long term conditions or providing unpaid care.

Many NHS Boards, Health and Social Care Partnerships and Primary/Community Care practices are associate members and many health and social care professionals are Professional Associates. Commercial organisations may also become Corporate Associates.

Our vision is for a Scotland where people of all ages who are disabled or living with long term conditions, and unpaid carers, have a strong voice and enjoy their right to live well, as equal and active citizens, free from discrimination, with support and services that put them at the centre.

The ALLIANCE has three core aims; we seek to:

★ Ensure people are at the centre, that their voices, expertise and rights drive policy and sit at the heart of design, delivery and improvement of support and services.

★ Support transformational change, towards approaches that work with individual and community assets, helping people to stay well, supporting human rights, self management, co-production and independent living.

★ Champion and support the third sector as a vital strategic and delivery partner and foster better cross-sector understanding and partnership.
For more information:

Irene Oldfather, Director
Email: Irene.oldfather@alliance-scotland.org.uk  @ireneoldfather

Matthew Hilferty, Policy and Information Assistant
Email: Matthew.Hilferty@alliance-scotland.org.uk

Tel: 0141 404 0233

www.alliance-scotland.org.uk