



Q&A with the Age of Experience Group

Jean

1) How long have you been a member of the Age of Experience group and what motivated you to join?

I have been a member for about 18 months.

I was motivated to join as I was looking to be involved in influencing decisions and sharing my experiences. My working life focussed around supporting others and I am keen to continue this. Being involved in the group gives me an opportunity to keep my mind active and reduces my isolation.

I am Interested in meeting different people and listening to their challenges and stories.

2) What have been your highlights so far?

I particularly enjoyed attending the Sheffield Conference, July 2019. This ticked all my boxes. I met lots of new people and heard lots of experiences. I learned a lot and found the conference invigorating. It was great to be involved in putting together and hosting a workshop.

I also enjoyed Spring Forward with the added bonus of meeting up with a former colleague, who I have continued to meet socially.

3) Looking forward, what do you hope to achieve through your involvement?

Looking into the issue of LGBT communities within social housing, this is a passion of mine that I will continue to work on.

I also sit on the steering group which looks at the guidelines and structure around social housing for LGBT communities. Members of the council sit on the steering group too and we look to involve representatives from care homes in the future.

4) Do you have any advice for people who are new to the Age of Experience group?

Go for it! You will meet some really interesting people and learn lots of interesting and new things. Being part of the group is inspirational. A note of caution: be mindful not to over commit yourself to too many things.