



Local Area Workshop Programme

Gender and health impacts of policies extending working life in western countries

Venue: Conference Room, 4th floor, Business School, 29 Buccleuch Place,
Edinburgh EH8 9JS, United Kingdom from 15th October 2015

Chaired by: Professor Wendy Loretto

09.30 – 10.00 Registration and refreshments

10.00 – 11.00 Keynote speaker

Dr. Liam Foster, The University of Sheffield, 'Women, pensions and EU Active Ageing Policy'

11.00 - 11.15 Refreshment Break

11.15 - 12.15 Round-table discussion, with input from local stakeholders:

Morag Alexander/Ann Henderson – Scottish Commission for Older Women

David Lain – University of Brighton

Evelyn Fraser – Scottish Women's Convention

- What are the main issues facing stakeholders in the UK around the areas of gender, health and extending working lives?
- What can we in the UK and Scotland learn from other countries' experiences?

12.15 – 12.45 Consolidation of issues to be taken forward in COST Action

12.45 – 1.00 Close of event

Report on event

This event was attended by representatives from 15 of the countries included in the COST action along with representatives from a range of academic and policy perspectives from the UK. The academic attendees included early career researchers and PhD students, while the policy agenda was represented through involvement from: Eurofound, Scottish Women's Convention, Family Friendly working Scotland, Scottish Trades Union Congress, Institute of Occupational Medicine, Scottish Commission for Older Women and the Scottish Government.

The plenary presentation by Dr Liam Foster was followed by shorter commentaries from academic and policy perspectives. Together these built a very solid foundation for a lively and spirited discussion. We split the audience into three discussion groups, each with a good international mix of individuals. The main themes to arise from these discussions were: comparison of pension schemes across different countries; the extent to which there has been any gendered analysis of policy decisions around pensions; employer roles and responses; policies surrounding care and caring; opportunities to raise awareness and education around pensions; the role of welfare policies across the lifecourse in shaping women's and men's experiences of retirement.

These themes were then fed into discussions at the subsequent working group meetings and post-event followed up by Dr Foster disseminating a range of resources on UK pensions.