

## Policy & Research update Jan / Feb 2011

Welcome to our first issue! This monthly e-newsletter is aimed at professionals whose work involves people later in life, and will inform you about the latest publicly-available research and policy information from various institutions and government departments.

It coincides with our new section on the Age UK website dedicated to professionals. You'll find useful information and resources, including our back catalogue of reports and articles.

This newsletter is sent to our professional audience and it replaces the old Help the Aged Policy Update or Age Concern Age Agenda.

### ***This month's highlighted article: Good lighting***

Good lighting can be very important in helping older people be comfortable and independent in their homes. This month we are highlighting research and work by the Thomas Pocklington Trust in this area. Read at [http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/Housing/Pocklington%20Trust%20-%20good%20lighting\\_pro.pdf?dtrk=true](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/Housing/Pocklington%20Trust%20-%20good%20lighting_pro.pdf?dtrk=true)

### ***Below are the topic areas covered in this issue.***

<b>Cross-cutting issues</b> Policy and research reports including the new Health Bill, changes to the NHS, dementia studies, mental health reports, internet health searches, and more.	<b>Health &amp; wellbeing</b> Items of important work that cover multiple topics including local authorities and spending on older people.
<b>Social care</b> Reports and reviews including paying for care, the new Health & Social Care bill, and Community Care Statistics.	<b>Communities</b> This month: citizenship survey, the Localism Bill, and a JRF report on experiences of living in lower-income neighbourhoods.
<b>Money matters</b> Publications on pensions, housing benefits, Disability Living Allowance, and older people as consumers.	<b>Equality &amp; human rights</b> UK and international reports, including the Equality Act, UN proposals, and equality and human rights in volunteering and work.
<b>Work &amp; learning</b> Reports on older workers, including the impact of workers staying in the workforce for longer, guidance to workers over 50, and the latest on the default retirement age.	<b>Transport</b> The new Parliament spending review on bus services, and campaigns to save bus services (including an interactive map of your area).

## ***Cross-cutting issues***

### **Health and quality of life in communities**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation published a report, [How can local authorities with less money support better outcomes for older people?](#) “Older people want and value ‘that bit of help’. This is the low-level support that promotes health, well-being and quality of life in the communities where people live.”

### **Social indicators**

The House of Commons has published [Social Indicators](#), a research paper summarising a wide range of social statistics. Subjects covered include crime and justice, defence, education, elections, health and population.

This edition includes an article on the CPI - uprating benefits and pensions, and topical subject pages on Fuel poverty and Seasonal flu statistics.

### **Eye health in dementia patients**

Thomas Pocklington Trust has published a research report on [Improving vision and eye health care to people with dementia](#).

### **Abolition of Audit Commission**

Following the Government’s decision to abolish the Audit Commission, the Communities and Local Government Committee is conducting [an inquiry into the audit and inspection of local authorities](#). The Committee is considering future arrangements in all the areas that previously fell within the responsibility of the Audit Commission, including:

- audit of local authority expenditure
- oversight and inspection of local authority performance; and
- value for money studies

[Age UK has written a submission to the inquiry \(PDF 60KB\)](#).

### **Citizenship Survey**

The Office for National Statistics has released the latest [Citizenship Survey - England report](#), produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The release includes data covering a range of issues including influencing decisions, volunteering, community cohesion, fear of crime, racial and religious prejudice, discrimination and attitudes toward violent extremism. Age UK’s local Committees have been active in promoting and supporting research in their regions.

### **Face to Face guidance**

A report presents findings of a [longitudinal evaluation of the Face to Face guidance pilot](#). Providers in the Pilot, which was commissioned by the Department for Work

and Pensions (DWP), offered guidance to employees aged 50 and above on a range of work and retirement issues using diverse service delivery methods. A major aim was to gain insight into effective strategies for providing guidance to older workers.

## ***Health and wellbeing***

### **Mental health outcomes strategy**

[No Health without Mental Health: A cross-Government mental health outcomes strategy for people of all ages](#) represents “a major step forward in mainstreaming mental health and supporting the Government's important aim of achieving parity of esteem between physical and mental health.” It has been produced in collaboration with many of the Department's partner organisations. Supporting documents including an action plan for expanding talking therapies have also been published.

### **Dementia patients let down**

Quarter of a million people with dementia are being let down by care and support that fails to meet their needs, an Alzheimer's Society report found. According to [Support. Stay. Save. Care and support of people with dementia in their own homes](#), this substandard care will result in 50,000 people being forced into care homes early, costing the state at least £70million per month.

### **Ageing and mobility**

[A study by the New Dynamics of Ageing Programme](#) examined the relationship between successful ageing and mobility patterns. This project used an innovative method for mapping the mobility of the oldest-old members (75 years and over) of an existing 25-year longitudinal study of ageing.

### **Health and Social Care bill**

The House of Commons has published the [Health and Social Care Bill](#), plus [explanatory notes](#).

### **End of Life Care**

The National End of Life Care Intelligence Network (NEoLCIN) has published a report [Deaths from Alzheimer's disease, dementia and senility in England](#), which highlights challenges that care homes increasingly will face with the rise of these diseases.

### **Mental health reports**

[New mental health reports](#) have recently been published: the National Audit of Dementia (Care in General Hospitals) Interim Report, the Good Practice Compendium for Dementia Care, and Commissioning for Wellbeing and Population Mental Health.

## **Nutritional needs**

ILC-UK has published a report [Older people and functional foods](#) which "shows that alongside a healthy diet, functional foods can play a role in supporting the nutritional needs of older people including the prevention and management of chronic disease."

## **NHS Data**

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson has joined forces with the NHS to make previously unreleased health data publicly available to Londoners for the first time. NHS data about maternity, stroke and performance indicators are available now on [the London Datastore](#); data on health services and conditions, including cardiovascular illness mental health and major trauma, will follow.

## **NHS landscape review**

The National Audit Office has published a report, [National Health Service landscape review](#), summarising the new arrangements for the NHS proposed in the Health White Paper.

## **GP commissioning budgets**

The Nuffield Trust report, [GP commissioning: Insights from medical groups in the United States](#), examines the American experience of handing the equivalent of commissioning budgets to doctors over the past 20 years.

## **Internet and healthcare**

[A Bupa-commissioned report by the London School of Economics \(LSE\)](#) analyses the findings from Bupa Health Pulse 2010. This final report in a series of three looks at the role that the internet, including social media, plays in healthcare. It looks at how and why people search for online health information and how they transact with healthcare professionals.

## **NICE quality standards**

NICE is to develop [31 new quality standards in clinical areas](#) such as asthma, diabetes in children, epilepsy and lung cancer. The new standards will add to the four already published by NICE in 2010, with a further nine currently in development and due for publication later this year.

## **Public health consultation papers**

There are [three public health consultation papers](#) the Government is currently undertaking on the future for Public Health in England: the Public Health White Paper, Funding and Commissioning of Public Health, and the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

## **Eyecare reports**

Thomas Pocklington Trust has published two research reports: [Improving vision and eye health care to people with dementia](#), and [The needs of frail older people with sight loss](#).

## **Some relevant research articles in the latest ONS Health Statistics Quarterly**

### **[Inequalities in disability-free life expectancy by area deprivation: England, 2001-04 and 2005-08.](#)**

Smith, MP et al, Health Statistics Quarterly No 48 Winter 2010 pp 36-57.

The scale of health inequalities in health expectancies is reported to be even greater than that of inequalities in mortality rates. An examination of changes in inequality in disability-free life expectancy over time between Lower Super Output Areas in England, grouped into quintiles of an area-based measure of relative deprivation.

### **[Exploratory analysis of seasonal mortality in England and Wales, 1998 to 2007.](#)**

Brown, Gary et al, Health Statistics Quarterly No. 48 winter 2010 pp 58-80.

As different methods are used to assess excess winter mortality and heatwave related mortality, research was undertaken to determine whether a single method could be used to measure all seasonal mortality in relation to temperature, and to explore if reliable predictions can be made of how many deaths would occur at extreme temperatures.

### **[Inequalities in cancer survival: Spearhead Primary Care trusts are appropriate geographic units of analyses.](#)**

Ellis, L, & Coleman, MP, Health Statistics Quarterly No 48 Winter 2010 pp 81-92.

Comparison of differences in survival for common cancers between Spearhead and other local authorities and Spearhead and other PCTs. Concludes that Spearhead PCTs are appropriate geographic units for monitoring inequalities in cancer survival, but given the instability of NHS geographical boundaries, Spearhead LAs could be a suitable alternative.

## ***Social care***

### **Community care statistics**

#### **[Community care statistics: Social services activity, England - 2009/10 \(initial release\)](#)**

contains the final data for the numbers of service users in council funded or commissioned residential care by Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs) in England.

### **Policy 2011 and Beyond**

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services has published a [briefing on its recent policy event, 'Policy 2011 and Beyond'](#). Three professors discuss the future of social care.

## **Health and Social Care bill**

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## **Sustainable adult social care**

[New research](#) from the Institute for Sustainability, Health and Environment (ISHE) at the University of the West of England, shows that Adult Social Care can become more environmentally sustainable, more economical and still meet social objectives, with the right policies and strategies in place.

## **High-quality, cost-effective support**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published a review of services and support for older people which it feels provide high quality support but at a cost-effective rate: [How can local authorities with less money support better outcomes for older people](#).

## **More people paying for own care and support**

[Research published by the Putting People First consortium](#) has highlighted the growing significance of people paying for their own care and support.

## **Disparity in social care charges**

[A Which? consumer magazine Freedom of Information request](#) to Local Authorities has revealed huge differences in charges levied for social care services provided in people's homes.

## **Specialist market reports**

Laing & Buisson publishes a range of specialist market reports and directories within the healthcare, community care and childcare sectors, including the flagship Laing's Healthcare Market Review.

Of special interest to people who work for and with older people is the [Care of Elderly People UK Market Survey](#), a comprehensive review of the current state and future prospects with facts, figures and unrivalled analysis based on Laing & Buisson's own original research. PLUS – new for this edition – a Financial Appendix with Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet and Other Financial Information for up to four years for all significant providers of care homes and home care for older people.

## ***Communities***

### **Localism bill**

The government has introduced the [Localism Bill](#) to parliament. At the same time as giving more freedom to local authorities by giving them a general power of

competence, the Bill will give communities more ways to be involved in local decision making.

This includes new community rights for neighbourhood planning; to call local referendums; the chance to bid to run local services; and buy community assets. There are also proposed changes to make social housing tenure more flexible. The government is aiming for the Bill to achieve Royal Assent in November 2010.

Read [Age UK's second reading briefing \(PDF 104KB\)](#)

## **Spending review on bus services**

The Transport Select Committee announced an inquiry into the impact of announcements in [the spending review on bus services](#). The ministers were particularly interested in the impact of spending cuts on bus services, including community transport.

Spending reductions have been announced or are expected to the Bus Service Operators' Grant, local authority grant support to bus services and other local authority funding. The inquiry also wanted to hear evidence on the implications of free off-peak travel for elderly and disabled people on all local buses anywhere in England under the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007.

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## **Living through change**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published [Living through change in challenging neighbourhoods](#) about people's perceptions and experiences of living in lower-income British neighbourhoods in Anglesey, Blackburn, Edinburgh, Knowsley, Grimsby and West London.

## **Money matters**

### **Pension trends**

The ONS has published [Pension Trends - Chapter 4: The labour market and retirement \(2011 edition\)](#).

### **Outcomes for savers**

The Pensions Regulator has published [a discussion paper](#) on how it should support the Defined Contribution (DC) market in the delivery of good outcomes for savers.

### **Changes to Housing Benefit**

In December [the House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee published a report](#) following its enquiry into changes to Housing Benefit. The Committee supports the aim of managing costs and providing better value. However it expresses some concerns says there is still a level of uncertainty around the impact of the proposed changes and their cumulative effect on households.

It notes that older people have little opportunity to improve their financial circumstances and should not face being made homeless or living in accommodation that puts their health or well being at risk.

### **Disability Allowance**

In the June Budget the Government announced that it introduce a new assessment and revised eligibility for new and existing working age claims for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to be rolled out from 2013/14 which, when fully introduced will reduce expenditure on DLA by 20%. It has published [a consultation paper](#) which gives proposals for a reformed benefit called Personal Independence Payment.

### **Pensions Bill**

[The Pensions Bill](#) received its First Reading in the House of Lords on Thursday 13th January and includes measures to:

- Bring forward State Pension Age equalisation at 65 from 2020 to November 2018. Both the male and female pension age will then increase to 66 by April 2020
- Amend the provisions for automatic enrolment which place a duty on employers to automatically enrol eligible workers into a qualifying pension scheme and to provide pension contributions
- Make changes to pension legislation following the Government's decision to use the Consumer Price Index rather than the Retail Price Index as the main measure of price increases for pensions and benefits

## **Average losses for pensioner households**

The IFS has published [Average losses for pensioner households](#) from tax and benefit changes to be introduced between January 2011 and April 2014. This note provides details on the average losses among pensioner households from tax and benefit reforms that will be introduced between January 2011 and April 2014, including the increases in the standard VAT rate and fuel duty that came into effect at the beginning of January 2011.

## **Understanding pension terms**

[NEST Corporation today published a report](#) of its initial research into the understanding of current pension terms amongst its target audiences, and [a phrasebook](#) of key terms, phrases and principles aimed at helping future NEST members to better understand pensions.

## **Income poverty in the EU**

The European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research has published a policy brief: [Income Poverty in the EU. Situation in 2007 and Trends \(based on EU-SILC 2005-2008\)](#). The aim of this Policy Brief is to analyse the level of poverty and the trends of poverty across the European Union.

## **New consumer marketplace research**

Age UK is pleased to launch a new [research report into the consumer marketplace in an ageing society](#). The research, carried out by ILC-UK on behalf of Age UK, highlights the ways in which the consumer market is failing older people and makes recommendations to businesses, government and older people alike to improve older people's experiences as consumers.

## ***Equality and human rights***

### **Equality Act 2010: Public Sector Equality Duty**

On 12 January 2011, the Government confirmed that the new public sector equality duty will be brought into force on 6 April. This requires public bodies to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups.

The equality duty covers age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. Following a public consultation last year draft regulations have been published setting out new specific duties which list what certain listed public bodies will be required to do to meet the general duty.

The regulations include requirements to regularly publish equality data, including analysis of how new and existing policies and practices impact on different groups

and set equality objectives. The Government Equalities Office has published a [quick start guide to the Equality Duty](#).

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has also [published guidance on this issue](#).

Age UK's [response to the consultation on the specific duties can be found here](#) (PDF 52KB).

## **Human rights and equality in the voluntary sector – a new report**

In December 2010 the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) published [a report of a pilot project](#), funded by the EHRC and carried out by the British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR) and the Equality and Diversity Forum (EDF) looking at how voluntary organisations that work in the equalities field are using human rights concepts, language and tools in their work.

Age UK's work on older people and human rights is profiled in the report.

## **Equality & Human Rights Commission Inquiry into Homecare services for Older People**

The Equality & Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has launched a formal inquiry into the human rights of older people who receive homecare services.

The inquiry's call for evidence is open until 4th March 2011 (note extended deadline) and is seeking views from older people, their carers and from organisations working with them, on the quality of care delivered to older people (aged 65 and over) in the home.

The Commission will collate and analyse all the evidence submitted during the Inquiry, and will publish a report and recommendations towards the end of 2011. [Visit the EHRC's website](#) to find out how to submit evidence and for further details.

## **Default Retirement Age**

Following many years of campaigning by Age UK and its partners, on 13 January, the Government confirmed that Default Retirement Age is to be phased out between 6 April and 1 October 2011.

This means that From 6 April 2011, employers will not be able to issue any further notifications for compulsory retirement using the DRA procedure and from 1 October, employers will not be able to use the DRA to compulsorily retire employees.

[The Government has published a written response](#) to its recent consultation on the issue.

Acas has [published a new guide](#) to help businesses adapt to the removal of the DRA.

[Age UK's response to the consultation can be found here \(PDF 188KB\)](#).

## **UN Assembly Working Group for Older People's Rights**

In November 2010, the UN General Assembly made the landmark decision to establish a working group to strengthen the protection of older people's rights.

The working group is open to all UN member states and will examine evidence on whether the existing international human rights framework meets the needs of older people.

As part of its remit, the group will consider whether new human rights instruments, such as a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons, are necessary. The working group will begin meeting in Spring of 2011 and is likely to meet again later in the Summer. Further activities have not been determined yet.

[Read more on their website.](#)

## **UN Convention on the elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women**

In 2011, the UK Government will report to the UN on its implementation of the CEDAW Convention (Convention on the elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women).

The UK Government's report will be one of the first to consider a new set of recommendations agreed by the UN's CEDAW Committee that makes explicit the human rights of older women (GR No. 27). More can be read in [their session report](#).

In addition to the UK Government's official report, NGOs can submit a shadow report to the CEDAW Committee. Age UK, together with Elizabeth Sclater from the Older Women's Network, are facilitating the gathering of evidence for a shadow report on the human rights of older women. Contact Elizabeth Sclater for further information.

## ***Work & learning***

### **Future of workplace relations**

Acas makes a number of predictions, including how the ageing population will have a far reaching impact on the workplace, in a new discussion paper, [The future of workplace relations - An Acas view](#).

### **Pension compensation**

[The Pension Protection Fund \(PPF\) published a consultation](#) on its approach to calculating compensation for men and women being assessed for entry into the PPF - or who are already PPF members - to ensure their equal treatment, which is required by law.

## Figures on older workers

[The older workers statistical information booklet](#) presents key data on older workers' employment, labour market participation and developments. It is based on Labour Force Survey data for United Kingdom (Quarter 2, 2010) and published by DWP.

## How to extend working lives

[The macroeconomic impact from extending working lives report](#) presents findings from research, conducted by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) and funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). NIESR were commissioned to use their global econometric model, NiGEM, in order to model various scenarios involving extending working lives, and to quantify the macroeconomic effects therein.

The core scenario is a one year increase in working life for the UK population that is gradually phased in over the period 2010-14. In addition to this, NIESR carried out a series of counterfactual analyses which modelled the loss to the economy from older people leaving the labour market early.

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## Work Programme tendering

On 22 December [the Government invited private and voluntary organisations to tender](#) to run contracts under the new Work Programme, which will replace the Flexible New Deal as the central welfare to work scheme later this year.

Organisations are invited to bid to deliver the contracts, which will increase the rewards for placing benefit claimants in sustainable employment. Age UK Training will be aiming to work as a sub-contractor with those organisations selected as the 'primary contractors' to specialise in helping older claimants.

## **Face to Face guidance**

A report presents findings of a [longitudinal evaluation of the Face to Face guidance pilot](#). Providers in the Pilot, which was commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), offered guidance to employees aged 50 and above on a range of work and retirement issues using diverse service delivery methods. A major aim was to gain insight into effective strategies for providing guidance to older workers.

## ***Transport***

### **Spending review on bus services**

The Transport Select Committee announced an inquiry into the impact of announcements in [the spending review on bus services](#). The ministers were particularly interested in the impact of spending cuts on bus services, including community transport.

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### **Save local bus services**

A national campaign to protect local bus services has been launched by sustainable transport group Campaign for Better Transport. Save Our Buses is in response to unprecedented cuts to council transport spending.

Save Our Buses has collected data from every local authority in England to produce [an interactive map](#) showing bus cuts across the county.

*Age UK is not responsible for external web content.*