

May 2011 Policy & Research Bulletin

Dear Reader

Welcome to this month's round-up of policy and research items that affect older citizens and people who work for and with them!

Even though April has been a 'short' month with all of the public holidays, there still have been many interesting reports, statistics, surveys, consultations, and guides having to do with the older population.

If you haven't seen Age UK's new web site for professionals, with useful information and resources, please visit us! <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/professional-resources-home/?itc=0&ito=2496&itv=1032738837509>

Warm regards
Susan Davidson

This month's Spotlight on: Falls Awareness

Around 30% of people over 65 and 50% of over 80s will fall each year, often with devastating consequences. After a fall, an older person has a 50% probability of having their mobility seriously impaired and a 10% probability of dying within a year. The emotional effects can be equally distressing. Loss of confidence can lead to social isolation, with over 70,000 in the UK afraid to leave the house due to a fear of falling.

Read more here: http://www.ageuk.org.uk/professional-resources-home/policy_research_update/falls-awareness-week/?itc=0&ito=2496&itv=1032738837509

Below are the topic areas in this issue:

Cross-cutting issues Year of Active Ageing; OECD Society at a Glance; Demos Coming of Age; campaign advice; and the next TPT Lighting article: halls and walkways	Health & wellbeing Reports about the NHS and Health Care Reform; patients, well-being and life quality surveys; mental health
Social care Government and think-tank reports on social care and mental health indicators, community care, and preventative care	Communities Citizenship Survey; consultation on voluntary sector; Localism Bill; and a report on small English seaside towns
Money matters Stats, information, and reports on pensions, retirement, government benefit reforms, and more.	Equality & human rights Consultation on plans to reform the Equality and Human Rights Commission, and Government LGB and T action plan
Work & learning Consultation on reform of employment tribunals	Housing & homes Many new reports and guides on older people and houses, including designs, care, and how cold houses impact health
Transport Government on rural transport	International European Demography report; ILC Global Alliance; and Age UK's latest international fact sheet on older populations

CROSS-CUTTING

Lighting in halls and walkways

Improving the lighting in a home is vital for making the most of people's vision. For older people whose eyesight is fading, as well as for those with eye conditions, research shows that a simple change in the type or position of light can make life easier, safer and more enjoyable. In our regular look at lighting we focus this time on halls and stairways.

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/Halls%20and%20stairways.doc>

Latest Magenta Book on Evaluation

The Magenta Book is HM Treasury guidance on evaluation for Central Government, but will also be useful for all policy-makers, including those working in local government, charities and the voluntary sectors.

It sets out the key issues to consider when designing and managing evaluations, and the presentation and interpretation of evaluation results. It describes why thinking about evaluation before and during the policy design phase can help to improve the quality of evaluation results without needing to hinder the policy process.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_magentabook_index.htm

Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations

As well as being the Royal Wedding Day, 29 April marked the European Day of Solidarity between Generations.

This year it has special significance, as the launch date for the 2012 European Year of Active Ageing. The European Commission hosted a conference in Brussels

[<https://secure.destree.be/ei/docs/Solidarity/program.pdf>] on the day itself, where Age UK was represented. The Department of Work and Pensions will coordinate UK activities for the 2012 European Year.

To learn more about the opportunities offered by the European Day and the European Year, please see AGE Platform Europe's website [<http://www.age-platform.eu/en/age-policy-work/solidarity-between-generations/campaign>] or contact Age UK's European Political Adviser, Nicola Robinson, at nicola.robinson@ageuk.org.uk

Society at a Glance

The OECD has published the latest edition of Society at a Glance, which gives an overview of social trends and policy developments in OECD countries.

Using indicators taken from OECD databases and other sources, it shows how societies are changing over time and compared with other countries.

For example, women in the United Kingdom spend about eight more years in on an age-related pension than men - both experiences are well above the OECD average.

http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3746,en_2649_37419_2671576_1_1_1_37419,00.html

Coming Of Age

As a society we tend to view ageing as a ‘problem’ which must be ‘managed’ – we frequently debate how to cope with the pressure on national health services of growing numbers of older people, the cost of sustaining them with pensions and social care, and the effect on families and housing needs.

The core message in this report by Demos is that ageing in itself is not a policy problem to be solved, but each individual’s experience of ageing, including their health, well-being and financial security, will be determined by their life-course in its entirety, rather than by the events of their later life in isolation.

Therefore, policy activities to support positive experiences of ageing must aim to build people’s resilience throughout their lives, to prevent problems such as poor health or social isolation from arising.

http://www.demos.co.uk/files/Coming_of_Age_-_web.pdf?1302099024

Campaigning advice and support

National Council for Voluntary Organisations has set up websites with advice and resources for local campaigning: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/campaigningeffectiveness>

They also have useful pdfs to get you started, <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/gettingyoustarted>

...and five short and amusing films explaining five key principles of campaigning.

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/freedave>

Adult media literacy

OFCOM has published a report designed to give an accessible overview of media literacy among UK adults aged 16 and over. It includes many facets of internet use, including for the over 65 age group.

This report is the fourth full report since 2005. It is therefore able to show trends over time for many of the questions asked. The purpose of this report is to support people working in this area to develop and promote media literacy among these groups.

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/research/media-literacy/media-lit11/Adults.pdf>

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Health and Social Care Bill

At the beginning of April, the Government took the highly unusual decision to “pause” the Health and Social Care Bill and embark on a listening exercise. In effect, this delays the passage of the Bill by around three months and gives the Government the opportunity to engage with the public and professionals.

The decision came as the Bill faced increasing opposition from professional groups and the public and the likelihood of a backlash in the House of Lords should the Bill move there without significant amendments. To oversee the listening exercise, the Government has appointed senior figures from the health and voluntary sectors under the banner of the NHS Future Forum. The Forum and senior Government figures will take part in a series of

listening events over the next few weeks and are encouraging the public to submit their views by the 31 May.

See how you can get involved here. <http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/listening-exercise-how-to-get-involved/>

Get more on the NHS Future Forum here. <http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/leads-speak-about-roles/>

NICE Quality standards for diabetes

This NICE quality standard defines clinical best practice. It provides specific, concise quality statements, measures and audience descriptors to provide patients and the public, health and social care professionals, commissioners and service providers with definitions of high-quality care. Standards for diabetes have now been published:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qualitystandards/diabetesinadults/diabetesinadultsqualitystandard.jsp>

Leadership and better patient care: Managing in the NHS

The National Institute for Health Research has published this independent research report, which was commissioned by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

<http://www.sdo.nihr.ac.uk/projdetails.php?ref=08-1601-137>

Inpatient services survey 2009

Care Quality Commission has published their national surveys of the views of adult inpatients.

This represents the experiences of people who have been admitted to hospital and had at least one overnight stay. The questions in the survey cover the issues that patients consider important in their care. The survey offers an insight into their experiences and CQC use this information in the assessment of NHS trusts.

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/aboutcqc/howwedoit/involvingpeoplewhouseservices/patientsurveys/inpatientsservices.cfm>

Transforming Community Services: Demonstrating and Measuring Achievement: Community Indicators for Quality Improvement

The Department of Health has published this document, which introduces 43 indicators for quality improvement for voluntary, local use in a community setting. These carefully chosen quality indicators will assist local service improvement and help to raise the standard of care delivered to patients and communities.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_126110

Mental health promotion and mental illness prevention: the economic case

Health systems aim to improve health and health-related well-being, but are always constrained by the resources available to them. They also need to be aware of the resources available in adjacent systems which can have such an impact on health, such as housing, employment and education. Careful choices therefore have to be made about how to utilise what is available. One immediate corollary is to ask whether investment in the prevention of

mental health needs and the promotion of mental wellbeing might represent a good use of available resources. This is the question addressed in this report.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_126089.pdf

Life Satisfaction and Other Measures of Wellbeing in England, 2007 – 2011

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has released survey results on life satisfaction and satisfaction with aspects of life from 2007 to 2011.

Results are based on 1,769 face to face interviews in England conducted in late March 2011, and similar surveys conducted in earlier years.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/files/Statistical-Release-13-April-2011-wellbeing.pdf>

Good neighbours – measuring quality of life in old age

Most measures of quality of life have been based on ‘expert’ opinion. Professor Ann Bowling and colleagues have been formulating a new measure of quality of life based on the priorities of older people. This research has used in-depth interviews with the public to gain an idea of the contributory factors to older people’s wellbeing.

Survey results discuss quality of life factors that are important to older people, and recommendations. <http://www.ilcuk.org.uk/record.jsp?type=publication&ID=83>

Health costs of cold dwellings

This short report considers the numbers of English dwellings where the energy efficiency rating is considered poor. The associated estimated cost to the NHS of poor health as a result was calculated to be £192 million. The health effects of excess cold are far reaching and it is estimated that up to 40,000 deaths per year can be attributed to this hazard.

http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/warm_homes_nhs_costs.pdf

Marmot Indicators for Local Authorities in England

Fair Society, Healthy Lives: The Marmot Review report was published in February 2010 (www.marmotreview.org). The report included some suggested indicators to support monitoring of the overall strategic direction in reducing health inequalities.

The London Health Observatory and the Marmot Review Team have produced baseline figures for some key indicators of the social determinants of health, health outcomes and social inequality that correspond, as closely as is currently possible, to the indicators proposed in Fair Society, Healthy Lives.

http://www.lho.org.uk/LHO_Topics/national_lead_areas/marmot/marmotindicators.aspx

Fair London, Healthy Londoners?

This report by the London Health Commission provides an overview of current health inequalities in London, both in terms of health outcomes and also in relation to key indicators for the wider social determinants of health. It is intended to illustrate the current situation and to stimulate and inform discussion on the focus for future action across London.

http://www.lho.org.uk/Download/Public/17134/1/LHC_160311.pdf

Workshop: 'Understanding the mechanisms underlying age-related loss of muscle mass as a guide to intervention strategies'

The Institute of Ageing and Chronic Disease at the University of Liverpool is hosting a two day BBSRC and AgeUK - sponsored workshop to be held at Jury's Inn, Liverpool on 15-16th July 2011. This international workshop will address at a basic level what is known about the fundamental mechanisms by which skeletal muscle mass and function are lost during ageing and will examine the nature of interventions that might prevent these mechanistic changes.

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/ageing-and-chronic-disease/workshop-july.htm>

SOCIAL CARE

Social care and mental health indicators from the national indicator set - 2009/10 final release

This National Indicator Set (NIS) underpins the performance framework for local government. The NHS Information Centre collects information on 12 of the indicators which relate to social care and mental health services. This replaces information in the provisional report which was published on 30 September 2010.

An executive summary and links to tools to access data can be found here

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/social-care/adult-social-care-information/social-care-and-mental-health-indicators-from-the-national-indicator-set--2009-10-final-release>

Community care statistics: Social services activity, England 2009/10

This report presents information on referrals, assessments and packages of care, including information relating to residential care placements and residents during 2009-10, at a council level.

The data can be viewed here <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/carestats0910asr>

SCIE Research briefing 36: Reablement: a cost-effective route to better outcomes

This is one in a series of research briefings about preventive care and support for adults. Preventive services represent a continuum of support ranging from 'primary prevention' aimed at promoting wellbeing, through to 'secondary' or early intervention, and on to 'tertiary services' such as intermediate care provided by health and social care professionals.

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/briefings/briefing36/index.asp>

Also Social Care TV - Prevention: Reablement

<http://www.scie.org.uk/socialcaretv/topic.asp?guid=4e7c53aa-175b-4740-bdd8-0c200d1ba9ed>

LGiU report

The Local Government Information Unit has published a report in conjunction with Partnership, exploring how local councils can best support their residents who fund their own social care. The report, 'Independent Ageing' explains that around 25 per cent of self funders fall back on state funding, often because they do not know how best to use their wealth so that it is more sustainable. The report shows that out of 53,000 self funders, only

14,000 access independent financial advice before making a decision on care funding. It is estimated that councils spend £490m a year supporting these residents. Councils should improve their performance in this area, by helping self-funded residents access independent financial advice.

The full report can be read here

<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/briefings/2011/Pages/201100933.aspx> .

Strategic Society Centre report

The Strategic Society Centre has published a new report looking at the possibility of a 'National Care Fund' underwritten by private insurance companies rather than the state. For individuals, a lump sum premium of around £6825, a charge on their estate or around £14 a month over a 40-year working career would be the level of investment necessary. The report can be found here http://haec-clients-public.s3.amazonaws.com/ssc/pdfs/2011/04/18/Delivering_a_National_Care_Fund_-_How_would_a_public-private_partnership_work_1.pdf

Westminster Social Care Commission report

A group of social care experts asked to investigate Westminster Council's social care services have published their recommendations for changes. The Commission, chaired by Baroness Sally Greengross, has highlighted that changes are needed if future social care services are to be efficient and reach as many people as currently.

They have included recommendations on a number of areas, including financial management, professional contact time with service users, the assessment process and the way that services are commissioned and decommissioned.

The full report can be found here www.westminster.gov.uk/services/livingcity/social-care-commission/

New sector-led partnership on personalisation

Social Care Institute for Excellence will host the new Think Local, Act Personal Partnership to support personalisation. Over 30 national organisations representing the broad interest in personalisation and community-based support have committed to the Think Local, Act Personal Partnership. Partners will work to improve their own practice in six priority areas as well as advising and influencing government and other bodies.

<http://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/>

Which? report highlights care home concerns

In early 2011, the consumer champion sent undercover actors into four care homes in England, posing as residents. While there were examples of good practice, areas of care in all four homes left a lot to be desired

Residents in some care homes are inadequately fed, under-stimulated and, in one extreme case, potentially abused by a member of staff, the undercover investigation found.

For more information, and advice on what to look for when choosing a care home, visit www.which.co.uk/carehome-checklist

CQC warns that unregistered care providers face prosecution

The Care Quality Commission encourages people to check that agencies providing personal care services in their own homes are properly registered.

By law home care agencies that provide personal care must be registered to ensure that they meet essential standards of quality and safety. Providers who break the law can be prosecuted.

To find out if a particular care agency is registered, you can search the CQC care directory which lists all providers:

<http://caredirectory.cqc.org.uk/caredirectory/searchthecaredirectory.cfm>

COMMUNITIES

Citizenship survey: Headline findings - April/December 2010, England

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.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/citizenshipsurveyq3201011>

Voluntary & community sector consultation – Belinda Wadsworth

The Government has announced a consultation on new Best Value statutory guidance for local authorities relating to consultation and working with the voluntary and community sector.

As part of this consultation the Government is proposing to revoke the existing guidance, 'Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities' Statutory Guidance from 2008 and to repeal the two main remaining statutory duties covered in it - the Duty to Involve and the Duty to Prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy.

Age UK is interested to hear your views on these proposals. Please email your comments to belinda.wadsworth@ageuk.org.uk

You can find information on the proposals under the new guidance at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/bestvalueconsult>

Localism Bill: Committee stage report - research paper

The House of Commons Library has published a research paper following committee stage of the Localism Bill

<http://www.parliament.uk/briefingpapers/commons/lib/research/rp2011/RP11-032.pdf>

England's Smaller Seaside Towns

This report by Communities & Local Government, Commission for Rural Communities, and DEFRA, provides an information base on England's smaller seaside towns. It presents a range of statistical evidence on socio-economic conditions and compares the figures with regional and English averages and with the averages for larger seaside towns.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/regeneration/pdf/1858214.pdf>

MONEY MATTERS

Pension trends

The Office for National Statistics has published three chapters from its Pension Trends data. This series provides a statistical backdrop for the debate on pensions, looking at changes in pension provision over time in various contexts.

Chapter 9: Pension scheme funding and investment (2011 edition) -

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=1282>

Chapter 10: Saving for retirement (2011 edition) -

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=1239>

Chapter 14: Pensions and the National Accounts (2011 edition) -

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=1283>

State pension reform

The House of Commons Library has published (28 April) State Pension Reform, looking at proposals to introduce a single-tier flat-rate State Pension.

<http://www.parliament.uk/briefingpapers/commons/lib/research/briefings/SNBT-05787.pdf>

Government response on early access to pension savings

Following a call for evidence, the Government has concluded that access to pension savings before age 55 should not be permitted at the present time. However, the Government will explore workplace savings models to encourage saving and will also explore reform to trivial commutation rules to improve flexibility for those with very small levels of savings in personal pension schemes.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_early_access_pension_savings.htm

Pensions Policy Institute research

The PPI has published research on the impact of the Government's recent reform which removes the effective requirement to annuitise pension savings by age 75.

<http://www.pensionspolicyinstitute.org.uk/default.asp?p=12&publication=290>

The English Indices of Deprivation

The English Indices of Deprivation measures relative levels of deprivation in small areas of England called Lower layer Super Output Areas. The Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI) is one of the best measures of pensioner poverty at neighbourhood level. This updates the last indices of 2008.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/indices2010>

Green Paper on State Pension reform

The Government has published a consultation paper which sets out two options for reforming the structure of the state pension for future pensioners. These are speeding up the current process of moving to two flat-rate pensions or more radically introducing a single flat-rate pension above the level of the pension credit guarantee. It also proposes two options for a mechanism to revised state pension age more automatically as life expectancy increases. Responses should be sent by 24 June.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2011/state-pension-21st-century.shtml>

Government response to DLA reform

The Government has published a response to its consultation on reform to Disability Living Allowance and the new Personal Independence Payment which is being introduced by the Welfare Reform Bill currently before Parliament. The DWP received over 5500 responses, over 500 being from organisations. The paper says that those already in receipt of Personal Independence Payment will continue to receive the benefit past the upper age limit of 65, provided they continue to meet the eligibility criteria. Existing DLA recipients of working age will be reassessed from 2013-14 and after that the Government will decide how to treat those aged 65 and over already in receipt of DLA.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2010/dla-reform.shtml>

Age UK responded to the consultation

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2010/dla-reform.shtml>

Age UK's response to Social Fund reform

Age UK has responded to the Government's call for evidence on localising elements of the discretionary Social Fund. The organisation recognises the current system has problems and that older people are low users of the Social Fund but argues that the first stage should be to consider whether localisation is the best approach rather than ask how a new service should be delivered. It is of particular concern that it is proposed that the money would not be ring fenced. The response also sets out issues that should be considered if proposals do go ahead.

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/Money-and-benefits/Social%20Fund%20call%20for%20Evidence.pdf?dtrk=true>

Office of the Public Guardian fees consultation

The Office of the Public Guardian has announced a new consultation paper which aims to ensure that the OPG Fee policy remains fair, equitable and proportionate to the services being provided. Consultation closes 21 May.

http://www.publicguardian.gov.uk/about/fees_consultation2011-12.htm

Treasury Select Committee re-opens inquiry into cheque withdrawal programme

The Treasury Select Committee is to reopen its inquiry on the future of cheques given continuing public concern about possible moves to phase out this method of payment by 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/treasury-committee/news/new-inquiry-the-future-of-cheques/>

Useful guidance for people wanting to submit evidence:

<http://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/have-your-say/take-part-in-committee-inquiries/witness/>

The Pension Protection Fund Strategic Plan

The Pension Protection Fund (PPF) published its 2011 Strategic Plan which sets out its priorities and objectives for the next three years.

http://www.pensionprotectionfund.org.uk/DocumentLibrary/Documents/Strategic_Plan_2011.pdf

Age UK responses to HM Treasury consultations

Age UK responded to HM Treasury consultation on financial services regulatory reform:

[http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/Money-and-benefits/Age_UK_response_HMT_building_a_stronger_system_2011_FINAL%20\(3\).pdf?dtrk=true](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/Money-and-benefits/Age_UK_response_HMT_building_a_stronger_system_2011_FINAL%20(3).pdf?dtrk=true)

Age UK responded to HM Treasury consultation on simple financial products:

http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/Money-and-benefits/Age_UK_response_HMT_simple_products_2011_FINAL.pdf?dtrk=true

Factsheet on compensation and divorce

Regulations which set out how Pension Protection Fund compensation may be affected for members who get divorced/have their civil partnership dissolved came into force on 6 April 2011.

These new rules make provision for a member's pension compensation to be shared with their ex-spouse or former civil partner if the court makes a pension compensation sharing order.

The PPF has produced a factsheet which offers guidance on the new regulations. [

http://www.pensionprotectionfund.org.uk/DocumentLibrary/Documents/compensation_and_divorce.pdf]

EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS

Consultation on plans to reform the Equality and Human Rights Commission

The Government has launched a public consultation on the Government's plans to reform the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

The consultation proposes reform in three key areas:

- To set out more clearly the EHRC's core functions as an independent equality regulator and National Human Rights Institution
- To stop non core activities and, where appropriate, make alternative provision, where they can be done better and/or more cost-effectively by Government or other civil society/private sector providers
- To clarify the Commission's relationship to Government and strengthen further its governance and systems to provide greater transparency

The consultation closes on 15 June 2011.

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/EHRC%20Reform%20Condoc%20Accessible.pdf>

Government LGB&T action plan

'Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality: Moving Forward' was published in March 2011. <http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/action%20plan.pdf>

In June 2010, the Government published 'Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality', setting out the challenges in tackling LGB&T inequality in all areas of society – in schools, at work, in sport and for families.

To build on that work, on 14 March 2011, Equalities Minister Lynne Featherstone launched 'Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality: Moving Forward' which sets out the actions Government is taking to tackle lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T) inequality across government and in partnership with individuals, voluntary groups, communities, and business.

Age UK is pleased to note that the Action Plan contains a specific action to 'Consider what further action could be taken to support the health and social care needs of older LGB&T people.'

WORK & LEARNING

Consultation on reform of employment tribunals

Age UK has responded to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' consultation on reform of employment tribunals. We argue that many of the reforms are unnecessary as the Government fails to present sufficient evidence to back up its policy proposals.

In the future, if the proposals come to fruition, there will be an increased emphasis on pre-claim mediation in the workplace; a more rigorous regime for striking out claims which are deemed to lack merit; fees to bring forward a claim; and a change in the unfair dismissal law to prevent people who have been employed for under two years making a claim on such grounds.

While the Government claims that these changes will make the system fairer and stimulate employers to recruit more staff, these are not borne out by the available evidence. The Government needs to re-consider its proposals as a matter of urgency.

[http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/Work-and-learning/Resolving%20workplace%20disputes%20\(April%202011\).pdf?dtrk=true](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/Work-and-learning/Resolving%20workplace%20disputes%20(April%202011).pdf?dtrk=true)

Saga publishes guides to working life after the default retirement age officially ends - one for employers, one for employees

Saga has commissioned Rethinking Retirement guide for Employees to help older workers recognise the opportunities that now exist for them to extend their working lives.

<http://www.saga.co.uk/ros-altmann/pdfs/Rethinking-retirement-for-employees.pdf>

As the Government abolishes the Default Retirement Age this year, employers must start rethinking retirement procedures for their employees. Rethinking Retirement guide for Employers discusses challenges for employers who may not be sufficiently prepared, but also new opportunities for employers to harness the talents of an ageing workforce.

<http://www.saga.co.uk/ros-altmann/pdfs/Rethinking-retirement-for-employers.pdf>

HOMES AND HOUSING

Breaking the Mould

The National Housing Federation recently launched a new campaign on older people's housing called 'Breaking the Mould'. It is designed to encourage housing association to build

attractive retirement housing with good services, targeted at older people living in larger family housing.

http://www.housing.org.uk/policy/older_and_vulnerable_people/older_people.aspx

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/housing-network/2011/apr/12/asset-rich-retirees-subsidise-social-housing>

Extra care housing

'Housing an Ageing Population: The Extra Care Solution' is a new report by Tim Brown at De Monfort University and was launch a recent Institute of Housing conference. It examines recent policy trends affecting extra housing and highlights opportunities for the sector.

http://www.keepmoat.com/assets/files/documents/apr_11/hm_1302007458_Housing_an_Ageing_Population_T.pdf

Mobile Homes

You and Yours on R4 recently reported on problems affecting older people living in mobile homes. The Housing Minister, Grant Shapps, said that there would be consultation this summer on measures to deal with bad practice by some site owners.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00g9qq6>

Housing Design Awards

The end of April was the closing date for the housing design awards nominations. There is a special retirement housing awards based on the principles of the HAPPI report, published by the Homes and Communities Agency

<http://www.hdawards.org/>

Details of the previous 'HAPPI' award winner can be found at:

http://www.hdawards.org/archive/2010/winning_schemes/happi_winners/heald_farm_court.php

Homes and Communities Agency – guidance on bids for older people's housing

As part of its Affordable Homes Programme the Homes and Communities Agency have issued guidance on bids for supported housing or housing for older people.

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/national_affordable_housing_programme

<http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/public/documents/ahp-vulnerable-older-people-guidance.pdf>

Details of their strategy for vulnerable people can found at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/vulnerable_people

Firststop

Firststop, the housing and care advice service, is holding a series of conferences (supported by DCLG) designed to look at how advice services can improve and work together.

<http://www.firststopcareadvice.org.uk/downloads/conferencebrochure.pdf>

Supporting People and the private rented sector

Foundations, the coordinating body for Home Improvement Agencies, have published good practice guidance on the delivery of housing support for older people living in the private rented sector.

http://wwwFOUNDATIONS.uk.com/pictures/content887/prs_good_practice_guide.pdf

Fit for Living – new position statements

Age UK is a member of the 'Fit for Living' group – set up by the Housing Association Charitable Trust to look at ways of improving the lives of older homeowners. The group has recently issued position statements on the way forward.

<http://hact.org.uk/fit-for-living>

<http://hact.org.uk/fit-for-living-position-statements>

Warm Front scheme reopens

Warm Front will provide assistance to more than 90,000 of the poorest households over the next two years, helping householders to install heating measures and insulate their homes.

For information on eligibility and how to

apply:http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Environmentandgreenerliving/Energyandwatersaving/Energygrants/DG_10018661

The Government response on Warm Front eligibility criteria is available:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/warm_front/warm_front.aspx

Health costs of cold dwellings

This short report considers the numbers of English dwellings where the energy efficiency rating is considered poor. The associated estimated cost to the NHS of poor health as a result was calculated to be £192 million. The health effects of excess cold are far reaching and it is estimated that up to 40,000 deaths per year can be attributed to this hazard.

http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/warm_homes_nhs_costs.pdf

TRANSPORT

Funding for rural community transport

The government has announced an extra £10 million to be distributed to the 76 rural local transport authorities to support community transport. In partnership with the Community Transport Association the government will also be providing consultancy advice on how to establish, manage and make sustainable community transport operations within their area.

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/speechesstatements/statements/baker20110309>

Community transport schemes fill an important gap in places where private travel is not possible or the public transport system does not fully serve the needs of older people in the area. There are a range of community transport schemes providing vital services for older people, such as transporting them to day centres or providing a 'ring and ride' service.

There have been concerns that it would be difficult to maintain current levels of service due to spending cuts at national and local level. This new funding is an important part of making sure these schemes are sustainable.

INTERNATIONAL

European Demography Report

Since the last 2008 Demography Report was published in 2008, the EU population has passed the 500 million mark while continuing to develop along lines that were already discernible two years ago. The EU's demographic picture has become clearer: growth is fuelled mainly by immigration, whereas the population is becoming older and more diverse.

The third Demography Report published in cooperation with Eurostat reveals Europeans are living longer and healthier lives.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1007&furtherNews=yes>

The International Longevity Centre Global Alliance

ILC Global Alliance is a multinational consortium consisting of member organizations.

The mission of the ILC Global Alliance is to help societies to address longevity and population ageing in positive and productive ways, typically using a life course approach, highlighting older people's productivity and contributions to family and society as a whole. The Alliance partners carry out the mission through developing ideas, undertaking research and creating fora for debate and action, in which older people are key stakeholders.

Visit the ILC Global Alliance here <http://www.ilc-alliance.org/>

International Fact Sheet

We have updated our International Fact Sheet, with information about older people across the world generally, and some more detailed statistics about later life in 14 countries in complex political emergencies (CPE). http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/international_factsheet_april_2011_final.pdf?dtrk=true