



## Policy & Research Update

### July 2019

*This month we are delighted to welcome back Director of Policy and Research Jane Vass to edit the Update:*

The new Prime Minister's inbox may be dominated by Brexit, but social care, housing and the future of free TV licensing are issues that we will be doing our best to keep on the political agenda. Read on for our new research, and a bumper crop of new publications on housing, scams and pensions.

## News

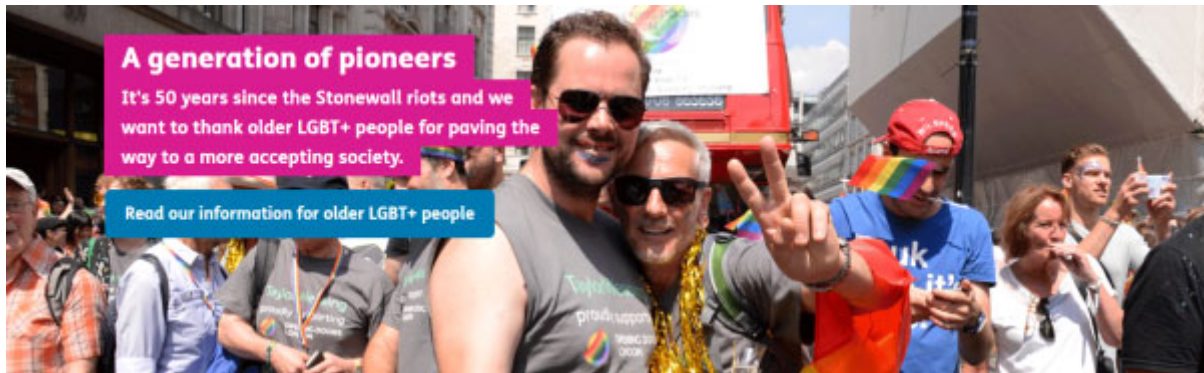
**New research shows there is a big groundswell of public support for the continuation of free TV licences for the over 75s, with three quarters of all those polled believing that the Government should continue to pay for them – equivalent to an estimated 37.5 million adults of all ages across Great Britain.**

- 4 in 5 (83%) of all ages surveyed say the Conservative Party should keep its manifesto promise to fund free licences until 2022.
- 3 in 4 (74%) of all ages surveyed agree the Government should continue to pay for all over 75s to have a free licence.



[Read what people of all ages think about TV licensing for over 75s](#)

## Feature



With the ever-growing Pride parade taking place in London earlier this month it seems a good moment to highlight the Age UK website's [LGBT+ section](#) as part of the Information and Advice [Relationships and Family pages](#).

The section provides information about rights, dealing with discrimination, health and wellbeing, Trans issues, and LGBTQ+ social groups. Age UK aims to uphold the rights of everyone and support people to ensure their rights are respected.

Click here to explore [Age UK's LGBTQ+ pages](#).

We have also recently updated our [Transgender issues and later life factsheet](#).

## Policy & Research

### Publications

#### [Decent Accessible Homes for Older People](#)

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Ageing and Older People published the results of its inquiry into decent accessible housing for older people – supported by Age UK. This is a comprehensive overview across different tenures and types of housing with specific recommendations to tackle the poor housing conditions face by millions of older people.

[Read the APPG Inquiry Report.](#)

**[New paper commissioned by Age UK warns that the Pensions Freedoms are letting down many ordinary older people and proposes solutions](#)**

[‘Fixing the Freedoms’](#) – written by Dominic Lindley, an independent consumer consultant – was commissioned by Age UK to investigate the development of retirement income products, customer support and industry thinking since the pension freedoms came into effect in 2015.

[Read the report](#) located under Money Matters on [this page](#).



**[Scams Prevention and Victim Support Pilot Project](#)**

Age UK’s Scams Prevention and Victim support pilot programme supported over 3,000 older people with advice and support on scams, helping to increase their knowledge and confidence to recognise and deal with attempted scams.

[Read the short summary report to find out more.](#)

The Programmes team are currently in discussions around future funding. If anyone would like further information, including having a look at the full report or data annex please don’t hesitate to get in touch – [Joseph.Parker@ageuk.org.uk](mailto:Joseph.Parker@ageuk.org.uk)

**[Home Truths – myth buster factsheet](#)**

Age UK has published its myth buster factsheet on the need for accessible new homes. It counters the arguments of home builders who have opposed the universal implementation of the lifetime homes accessibility standard for all new homes.

[Read the factsheet](#)

**[Consultation Responses](#)**

**[Financial Conduct Authority](#)**

Age UK submitted a response to a consultation by the financial regulator about extending the remit of Independent Governance Committees, that oversee contract-based pension schemes, to cover the new Investment Pathways.

[Read the consultation response.](#)

## Discover

**[Keith’s story: writing with dementia](#)**

Keith shares his journey with dementia from diagnosis at age 55 to finding solace in

writing and publishing three books! An honest account of the difficulties and support he's needed. [Read about](#) Keith's experience of living with a diagnosis of dementia.

You can see all of our discover articles [here](#).

## More from Age UK

### Age UK information guides and factsheets

The following factsheets have been updated:

- FS7 *Making a will*
- FS8 *Council and housing association housing*
- FS16 *Transgender issues and later life*
- FS29 *Finding, choosing and funding a care home*
- FS63 *Finding private rented accommodation*
- FS89 *Homelessness*

All factsheets can be found on the Age UK website [here](#).

Large Print versions of all factsheets are now also available to download [here](#).