UK Population: numbers, social diversity, voting power

- There are over 12 million people of State Pension age, almost 1 in 5 of the UK’s total population (ONS 2011)
- Over 1.4 million people are aged 85 or over (ONS 2012)
- The numbers of centenarians in the UK has nearly quadrupled since 1981, from 2,600 to over twelve thousand in 2010. (ONS 2011)

Population projections

- The number of people aged 60 or over is expected to pass the 20 million mark by 2031 (ONS 2011)
- The number of people over 85 in the UK is predicted to double in the next 20 years and nearly treble in the next 30 years (ONS 2011)
- The percentage of the total population who are over 60 is predicted to rise from 23% at present to nearly 29% in 2036 and 31% in 2056 (ONS 2011)

Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy

- Current UK estimates from the Office for National Statistics for life expectancy at birth are 82.3 years for women and 78.2 years for men (ONS 2012)
- UK life expectancy estimates at the age of 65 are 85.6 for women and 83 for men (ONS 2012)
- Projections for 2025 for life expectancy at 65 are 88.3 for women and 85.9 for men (GAD 2012)
- A female born in Glasgow City can expect to live 11.7 years less than one born in Kensington and Chelsea. For males, the difference is 13.6 years. (ONS 2009)
- At age 65, men in the UK can expect to live on average another 10.0 years in good health, which is 55% of their life after 65. Women can expect to live 11.7 years in good health, which is 56.8% of their expected remaining life span. (ONS 2011)

Money Matters

Incomes, poverty and benefits

- 1.7 million (14%) pensioners live in poverty and a further 1.1 million have incomes only just above the poverty level (DWP 2012)
- State Pension is currently £107.45 per week for an individual and £171.85 for a married couple (DWP 2012)
- About 4 million older people are entitled to Pension Credit, yet about 1 in 3 of those eligible are still not claiming it (DWP 2012)
- Up to £5.5 billion goes unclaimed in benefits by older people each year (DWP 2012)
- The minimum income guarantee for Pension Credit is £142.70 for single people and £217.90 for couples (DWP 2012)

Fuel poverty

- Age UK estimates there are currently approximately 3.5 million older households (60+) in the UK in fuel poverty. This equates to about 6 million older people (60+) (Derived from NEA analysis and DECC data 2012)
- In 2012-13 older people are eligible for Winter Fuel Payment which is normally £200 for those under 80, and £300 for over 80s. An addition £25 a week cold weather payment is available when the average temperature has been, or is expected to be, 0°C or below for seven days in a row (DWP 2012)

Health and Wellbeing

General

- An estimated 4 million older people in the UK (34% of people aged 65-74 and 48% of those aged 75+) have a limiting longstanding illness. This equates to 40% of all people aged 65+ (ONS 2012)
- Two thirds of NHS clients are aged 65 and over (DoH, 2007)
- The number of emergency readmission for people aged 75+ in English hospitals in 2010/11 was 201,571, a figure which has doubled over the previous 10 years (IC NHS, Dec 2012)
- Each hospital bed costs on average £260 a day (DoH 2011)
- Quality of older people’s services is below that of younger age groups with late diagnosis, under-treatment and under-referral as well as under-commissioning of older people’s services (e.g. mental health) and service gaps for specific groups such as care home resident

Malnutrition

- It is estimated that over 1 million older people living in the community are malnourished (10% of people 65+ UK).
- One third of all older people admitted to hospital and care homes are at risk of malnutrition (European Nutrition for Health Alliance/ BAPEN/ ILC-UK 2006)

Falls

- About a third of all people aged over 65 fall each year (which is equivalent to over 3 million) (Epidemiology of falls. Masud T, Morris RO., Age and Ageing, 30-S4:3-7, 2001)
- The combined cost of hospitalisation and social care for hip fractures (most of which are due to falls) is £2 billion a year or £6 million a day (British Orthopaedic Association, IC, NHS, 2011)

Dementia

- Over 820,000 people are estimated to be suffering from late onset dementia in the UK in 2010
- By 2025, the number is expected to rise to one million. By 2051, it is projected to exceed 1.7 million
- It affects 1 person in 6 over 80 and 1 in 3 over 95 (Alzheimer’s Research Trust 2010)

Home and Care

Social care

- Of the 2 million older people with care related needs in England, 800,000 currently do not receive any formal support
- Spending on care stagnated and then decreased between 2005 and 2012, yet the number of people 85+ increased by over 250,000. There’s a shortfall of £500 million (Age UK 2011)
- Around one in 10 people, at age 65, face future lifetime care costs of more than £100,000 (Dilnot 2011)
Older carers
- In total, about 1 million people aged 65+ provide unpaid care for a partner, family, or others (DoH 2010)
- Unpaid carers currently provide 65% of care compared to 25% paid for by the state
- It is estimated that 25,000 grandparents over the age of 65 are currently raising 30,000 grandchildren in the UK (Grandparents Plus 2011)

Housing
- Over a quarter of 60+ households (26.1%) live in a non-decent home (CLG 2010)
- 4% of older people (65+) in UK in residential care in 2011; 16% of people who live to 85+ will use residential care within their lifetime (Laing and Buisson 2012)
- The UK average annual fee for a single room in a private residential home is £27,508 (£529 per week). For a nursing home, it is £37,804 (£727 per week) (Laing & Buisson 2011)

Elder abuse
- Approximately 342,000 older people living in private households in the UK are abused each year. We estimate that, taking into account care homes, up to 500,000 older people in the UK are abused each year (roughly 5% of the older population) (DoH 2007)

Travel and Lifestyle

Age discrimination
- 60% of older people in the UK agree that age discrimination exists in the daily lives of older people (ACE, HtA 2009)
- 76% of older people believe the country fails to make good use of the skills and talents of older people (Ibid)

Loneliness and Isolation
- Nearly half (49%) of all people aged 75 and over live alone (ONS 2012)
- Significant percentage of older people perceive difficulties getting to amenities: 44 % to the doctor/hospital; 23 % corner shop/supermarket; and 18 % post office (Age UK 2012)
- Over 700,000 (7%) of people aged 65 or over in the UK say they are always or often feel lonely (TNS, Age UK 2013)

Digital inclusion
- 5.3 million people aged 65 and have never been online; 36% of people aged 65-74, 70% of people aged 75+ (ONS 2012)

Work and Learning
- During August-October 2012, there were 7.5 million people aged 50-64 in employment and 0.96 million people aged 65 and over (an employment rate of 66.3% and 9.2% respectively) (ONS 2012)
- 65% of older people believe age discrimination still exists in the workplace (Age Concern, HtA 2009)

Contribution of older people
- Over 65s made a net contribution of £40 billion to society, benefitting the economy to a total of £175.9bn. This includes social care (£34bn) and volunteering (£10bn). By 2030, the estimated net contribution will be about £75 billion: a benefit of £291.1bn, including £52bn worth of social care and £15bn through volunteering. This compared to projected welfare costs of £216.2bn. (WRVS 2011)

International
- By 2050, the over-60 population is predicted to be just over 2 billion (UN 2011)
- 70% of the world’s older people live in developing countries (WHO 2002)
- Over a 100 million older people are living on less than $1(US) a day (Help Age International 2004)
- 60% of the world’s dementia sufferers live in the developing world, expected to rise to 71% by 2040 (Alzheimer’s International 2009)

Age UK 2011/2012
- We worked with our national partners Age Cymru, Age Scotland and Age NI and now have over 160 local partners whilst 280 organisations have expressed interest in joining us as a Friend of Age UK
- The network of local Age UKs in England now covers 95% of the 65+ population
- I&A reached 6 million people
- Our handy person service visited nearly 14,000 homes
- More than 70,000 volunteers supported our work
- We helped fund extensive research into age-related conditions
- 130,000 people signed our petition to end the care crisis
- We helped older people claim £140 million in benefits they were entitled to
- We helped more than 65,000 older people keep active and eat well through Fit as a Fiddle
- Worked with our 450 high-street shops owned by Age UK and Age NI
- We delivered 1.4 million services to 860,000 people in more than 40 developing countries