

Learning from our Community

Ageing in a Pandemic



We wanted to give people **over 50 years old** in Bath and North East Somerset the chance to tell us what life has been like during a Pandemic.

We wanted to understand the challenges that prevent people **ageing well** and help identify **what needs to change**.

We asked questions about **many areas of life including** health & wellbeing, housing, ageism & the priorities for the area.

Background

We delivered **2000 surveys** and received a **36% response rate** from people right across Bath & North East Somerset



Ageing in Bath & North East Somerset

Our local demographics are changing



Over 70,000

people aged over 50 living
across Bath & North East
Somerset

6%*

of our
community
identify as
LGBTQ

5%*

of our community
are from a Black,
Asian or other
Minority Ethnic
Community

36%

increase in
people aged 75
and over by 2029



“I've never spent so much time alone without human contact before. I have become very isolated and have felt very lonely.”

Anonymous



Impact of Covid-19

- Over two thirds of people (68%) said their quality of life had decreased in the last 12 months.
- Nearly half of people (48%) feel they have lost confidence.
- Use of devices, excluding the TV, went up in 30% of respondents.
- Quality of diet stayed the same for the majority of people (70%).
- 65% of respondents want the opportunity to do more activities.
- 33% of people commented that they wanted easier access to health care.

- Over half of respondents (52%) felt their health had declined with the majority of these people being over 75.
- The majority of people felt they had a comfortable home and food (91%) and were safe (83%).
- 42% of people say there is more community spirit now.
- Nearly half of people (48%) said they would like to feel less lonely.
- 28% of respondents felt they would like more practical support with help online and help in the home.



Impact of Covid-19

"My husband died (not covid) and now I'm alone in our home and feel isolated and my distractions are limited. I had to care for him almost single handedly, including medical procedures and I've felt much less supported than I may have been otherwise."

Anonymous



**Practical
&
Physical
Access**

**Practical
Wellbeing
Support**

**Perceptions
of Ageing**

Our Community

Bath & North East Somerset is a diverse area in terms of population, deprivation, wealth and access.

Our survey asked respondents to comment on anything they found challenging living in the area.

Analysis of comments brought up the following key themes....



Practical & Physical Access

36% of respondents commented about practical and physical access

- 1 • Lack of buses in rural areas
- 2 • Unsafe pavements
- 3 • Lack of disabled parking
- 4 • Lack of public toilets
- 5 • Lack of accessible parking





“Life is a lot tougher when you're older. It feels like we are forgotten, no one gives a damn.”

Anonymous



Practical Wellbeing

Many respondents made comments about lack of practical wellbeing support being something that they found difficult about living in Bath & North East Somerset.



Support
Getting
Online



Access To
Information
& Advice



Social
Activities &
Places to
Meet



Access to GP
& Hospital
Appointments



Increased
Community
Police
Presence

At the moment, at the age of 66 I feel that i'm not being ignored. I realise as I age, that will happen to me. People will not be interested in my opinion! That will be hard for me.”

Anonymous




Perceptions

The way in which older people are perceived within the area was mentioned in a number of responses.

Themes that came up regularly included:

- Feeling unappreciated in society
- Forgotten & ignored
- The feeling of discrimination as people felt the county is more focussed on students & families.
- B&NES being too Bath Centric.





"The other thing I want to say is my contact with my husband has got better, I have got to know him. He is marvelous at looking after me - I have a form of Parkinson's."

Anonymous



Positive Experiences

Encouragingly, 31% of people made comments to suggest they were happy and positive with most aspects of Bath & North East Somerset.



“I have exercised a lot more.
Started doing salsa, zumba
and...yoga online”

Anonymous



Our Commitment to Bath & North East Somerset

We will continue to
deliver and develop the
support we provide....

**Information &
Advice**

**Support
at Home**

**Community
Connections**

Listening to our Community

We asked people to give us a sense of issues that older people in the community feel most passionate about....

**Fix
Social
Care**

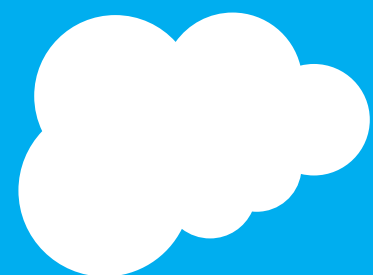
**Learn to
live safely
with
Covid-19**

**Support
the local
economy
& boost
education**

**Improved
Advice,
Information
& Housing**

**A stronger
voice for
older people
in local
decision
making**





Let's make
Bath & North East Somerset
an
Age Friendly Community
Together



01225 466 135



ageingwell@ageukbanes.co.uk

Age-friendly communities are places where age is not a barrier to living well and where the environment, activities and services support and enable older people to:

- have opportunities to enjoy life and feel well
- participate in society and be valued for their contribution
- have enough money to live well
- feel safe, comfortable and secure at home
- access quality health and care.

Will you join us?