

# AGE UK HERTFORDSHIRE NARRATIVE REPORT FOR GENDER PAY GAP

## The Gender Profile of our workforce at Age UK Hertfordshire

On 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024 88.17% of Age UK Hertfordshire's workforce were female, which is 7.5% lower than the previous year. Whilst this is a very high proportion, this gender profile is common within the voluntary sector and particularly so for a charity operating in the health and social care sector.

## Age UK Hertfordshire's gender pay-gap

Age UK Hertfordshire has reported on the gender pay gap annually since 2018, for which the current data has been calculated on the 'snapshot date' of 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and is as follows:

- The **mean** gender pay gap for Age UK Hertfordshire is **9.17%**
- The **median** gender pay gap for Age UK Hertfordshire is **13.18%**
- The proportion of males and females in each pay quartile:

April 2024	Males	Females
Lower (lowest)	8.25%	91.75%
Lower middle	2.06%	97.94%
Upper middle	20.62%	79.38%
Upper (highest)	16.33%	83.67%

For comparison the previous data, calculated on the 'snapshot date' of 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 is shown below:

- The **mean** gender pay gap for Age UK Hertfordshire is **15.48%**
- The **median** gender pay gap for Age UK Hertfordshire is **3.90%**
- The proportion of males and females in each pay quartile:

April 2023	Males	Females
Lower (lowest)	5.13%	94.87%
Lower middle	1.28%	98.72%
Upper middle	8.97%	91.03%
Upper (highest)	15.38%	84.62%

Age UK Hertfordshire is reporting both a mean and median gender pay gap. The main reason for this is the fact that we have a predominantly female workforce and a very small total number of male staff. In addition, the largest part of our workforce is made up of casual workers in Home Helper roles, which tend to attract more female staff. Therefore, even small fluctuations in the female workforce or roles undertaken by male staff can have a significant impact on our gender pay gap.

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### **What is causing our Gender Pay Gap?**

This year, the mean gender pay gap dropped from 15.48% to 9.17%, showing the average male hourly pay in the organisation is still higher than that of females, but with fewer differences. This is due to increased male representations in three lower quartiles, which were previously concentrated in the highest quartile.

The gender balance within our casual workers has improved from 66% female to 55.68%. The change is across the board; however, the lower two quartiles are still represented disproportionately by female workers. This trend resulted in the increase in the median gender pay gap, from 3.90% to 13.18%, reflecting the higher rate of increase in male representation in the upper middle quartile, pushing the median point higher.

Whilst the overall gender balance shifted slightly from 95.65% female to 88.17%, due to the small total number of male staff, any changes, either in the type of posts held by male staff or the overall number of male staff, can have a sizable impact on the gender pay gap figures.

### **What we are doing about our Gender Pay Gap**

Age UK Hertfordshire is committed to the application of equal opportunities and equal treatment for all employees, regardless of sex, race, religion or belief, age, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, sexual orientation, gender reassignment or disability. It has a clear policy of paying employees equally for the same or equivalent work, regardless of their sex (or any other characteristic set out above). As such, it:

- has a salary structure which shows progression through pay scales alongside a robust review process
- evaluates job roles and pay grades as necessary to ensure a fair structure.

Age UK Hertfordshire is therefore confident that its gender pay gap does not stem from paying men and women differently for the same or equivalent work. Rather its gender pay gap is the result of the proportion of women to men within the organisation, the roles in which men and women work within the organisation and the salaries that these roles attract.

While Age UK Hertfordshire's gender pay gap is in line with that of other organisations within the voluntary sector, Age UK Hertfordshire is committed to doing everything it can to maintain and, if possible, reduce the gap.

As an example of this, we have:

- Assigned an Equality & Diversity Champion for our organisation, with the intent to ensure that we fully apply equality and inclusion throughout all workplace practices.
- Implemented Equality and Diversity training as mandatory for all roles within the organisation.

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In addition, we continue to actively take steps to effectively ensure we are an equal opportunities employer, by

- Distributing, and reporting to board level, on staff satisfaction through a survey, to gain staff feedback on areas including salaries and benefits that we offer.
- Ensuring that all employees have access to the same opportunities, such as training or job vacancies.

We will also continue to:

- Evaluate job roles and pay grades as necessary to ensure consistency and fairness
- Evaluate our recruitment processes and procedures to ensure that they remain fair and equitable to all applicants regardless of their specific characteristics.

As an equal opportunities employer, we believe in appointing the best candidate into the role, regardless of their gender or other factors covered by the Equality Act, 2010.

### **Mandatory Statement**

I declare that we have used all reasonable endeavours to ensure that the data contained in this report is accurate.

**Mark Hanna**

Chief Executive Officer