



## ABOUT AGE UK BEDFORDSHIRE

Age UK Bedfordshire is an independent local charity that exists to improve the life of everyone over the age of 50 throughout Bedfordshire, regardless of ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or physical and/or mental well being.

We were known from the early sixties until 1993 as the Bedfordshire Older People's Welfare Council. However, in 1993 we became Age Concern Bedfordshire and a member of the UK federation of Age Concerns. From November 2011 we became Age UK Bedfordshire as the two national organisations Age Concern England and Help the Aged joined together as one charity.

Karen Perry is the Chief Executive Officer and has been with the organisation since 1999. During this time Age UK Bedfordshire has grown from a small charity providing essential information and advice to around 2000 people a year to the largest independent older people's charity in the county, serving over 12000 people a year through our many and varied services.

Today Age UK Bedfordshire provides:

- A high quality, impartial and accessible service which helps people exercise their rights and understand their options, entitlements and responsibilities under law. This is achieved through the provision of –
  - Information
  - Advice on any problem faced by older people and their carers
  - Casework
  - Representation
    - A voice to influence changes to relevant legislation, policy and practice.
    - Community Support Service, which provides a holistic advice, information and support service to clients who in general have been referred by their clinician or social worker.
    - Home Help Service
    - Gardening Service
    - Accompanied Shopping Service
    - Handyperson Service
    - Age UK Beds Lunch Clubs
    - Insurance Products tailored for the over 50's
    - Seven Charity Shops, situated throughout the county