

Our ageing population brings both challenges and opportunities.

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## Policy and Research Update - December 2017

This has been a very special year for Age UK, seeing the phenomenal response to the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness. Age UK has been proud to be a part of the Commission, which just published its final report — an important reminder, as many of us stop work to spend time with our families and friends, that we all have a role to play in tackling loneliness.

And on that note — our best wishes to our readers, from all in the Policy and Research team at Age UK!

Warm wishes,

Jane Vass, Director of Policy and Research

## News

New figures from Age UK reveal the shocking extent to which millions of older people are being left to prop up the country's disintegrating care system, with those aged 65 and over providing nearly 54 million hours of unpaid care each week in England in 2016. The charity is calling for urgent action to ensure the sustainability of the care system to protect older carers from being expected to do too much as formal services decline.

[Read the full story here >](#)

## Featured Publication

The Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness has launched a report stating that loneliness can be more harmful than obesity or smoking 15 cigarettes a day. The Jo Cox Commission is wrapping up a successful year of spotlighting loneliness, campaigning to 'Start a Conversation'.

[Read the report here >](#)

For **3.6 million** people aged 65  
television is the main form of company.

(Age UK)



More than **1 in 3** people  
aged 75 and over say that  
feelings of loneliness are  
out of their control.

(Independent Age)



## Consultation responses

Age UK responded to the Department of Transport's Accessibility Action Plan (AAP), and fully supports its stated objectives, while also urging the DfT to include transport to hospital as part of the Plan.

[Read our response >](#)

## Blog

Read this blog on [the Four Seasons Care Home provider crisis](#) by Charity Director Caroline Abrahams.

## More from Age UK

### Age UK information guides and factsheets

We recently updated our factsheets on finding, choosing, and funding a care home and resolving problems and making a complaint about NHS care. You can find these updates, along with all of our other resources, [here](#).

### Research Digest

Our research digest page contains the latest publicly-available research and policy information, including surveys and available scholarship information.

[Find the latest developments >](#)

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