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Policy & Research Update December 2018

This is the time of year when many of us look forward to switching off from work, turning on the TV, and making the most of the Christmas favourites, but for many older people, the TV is their main companion all year round. That's why Age UK is so concerned by recent proposals from the BBC to end the free TV licence for people aged 75+. [You can find out more about our campaign here.](#)

And of course, we all owe a debt of gratitude to the many carers – paid and unpaid – who won't get much of a chance to put their feet up. I'll be taking some time off myself for caring purposes next year, and handing this update over to a number of Guest Editors. Enjoy!

Best wishes for the festive season,

Jane Vass, Director of Policy and Research

News

Stark figures emerged this month of the number of excess winter deaths between December and March last year. This particularly affected people over the age of 65. Caroline Abraham explains the factors which may contribute and what more can be done to reduce excess winter deaths in the older population.

[Read her statement here >](#)

Featured publication

We have just updated a number of our policy positions under Money Matters, as well as our Adult Safeguarding policy which can be found under Health and Wellbeing . We have also updated our Quick Reference Guide, [which you can view here.](#)

Age UK policy positions 2018 – a quick reference guide



Age UK's policy positions set out our guiding principles and key objectives in major policy areas

Ageism and age equality Human rights Age-friendly Government Reshaping public services Information and advice	Everyone should live with dignity and respect. Older people are equal members of society and should not be subjected to ageist attitudes, stereotyping or conduct. Human rights standards provide vital protection for older people by helping to change practice and procedure, culture and attitudes, and offering redress when breaches of human rights have taken place. Government at all levels should take a strategic approach to making the UK a great place to grow older where everyone is able to have a say in decisions that affect their lives. In reshaping public services, Government at all levels should take account of the needs of an ageing population. All older people should have choice and control over their own lives, with easy access to the information and advice they need to make that happen			
Money matters	Health and wellbeing	Care and support	Housing and homes	Active communities
Financial inclusion Older consumers should have safe, convenient and affordable access to financial services. They should be able to expect appropriate protection and fair treatment.	Carers Carers must not be expected to sacrifice their health or quality of life. Society should recognise carers' contribution, and ensure that they are supported to be able to live fulfilling lives whilst continuing in their caring role.	Age-friendly health services Older people must be able to access health services that do not discriminate and are equipped to provide safe, high quality care that's relevant to them, and be treated by people that fully understand their needs and aspirations. Care homes Care home residents must be full members of society, able to maintain their personal identity and contacts with family and community, with rights to security of tenure and the protection of the Human Rights Act, and protection against poor care and abuse. Dignity in health and social care At all times, older people using health and care services must be treated and cared for with dignity and respect. End of life care Everyone has the right to expect services and support that help them to achieve a dignified and pain-free death, with choice in how they are cared for in their final months and days, regardless of where they live or their diagnosis.	Age-friendly neighbourhoods Everybody should be able to live in an age-friendly environment, that enables people of all ages to lead independent and fulfilling lives. Crime Nobody should live in fear of crime. Police, Government and industry action should prevent crimes targeted at older people, including scams, and support victims. Energy Everyone should be able to live in a warm, energy efficient home and the energy market should work in the interests of consumers.	Digital inclusion Older people should be supported and encouraged to get online but those who cannot or do not want to do so should continue to be able to access services and support in a way suits them. Employment Older people who want to work must have the opportunity to do so. Someone's age alone should play no part in judging whether they are capable or able to do any job.
Consumer policy Competitive market places should work for older people, being fully inclusive and offering a real choice of goods and services that meet their needs and preferences.	Health, wellbeing and prevention Efforts to improve public health must be seen as just as important to older age groups as to other age groups. Preventing poor health and health crises in older people should be an essential objective for health and care services.			
Consumer vulnerability Business has a vital role to play in ensuring that products and services support wellbeing and resilience in later life, especially for customers in vulnerable circumstances, and regulators must ensure firms do this.	Independence and personalisation Older people should have choice and control over the support that they receive, so that it is tailored to their individual needs and preferences, and should be able to draw on a wide range of support which is not limited to traditional care services.			

For more detail on our policy positions, visit ageuk.org.uk/how-impact-policy-research/policy-positions/, where you can also sign up to our Policy and Research updates. Alternatively email policy@ageuk.org.uk or phone 0800 339 2061. For Media queries, email media@ageuk.org.uk

Policy & Research

Publications

Research manager Susan Davidson provides insight into who the 'digitally excluded' are, why and how older people are using the internet, and what works in terms of helping people to access what they need from the digital world.

[Digital Inclusion Evidence Review >](#)

Changes this month mean that people will no longer be able to receive their State Pension on their 65th birthday, yet our research shows that not many people coming up to retirement are aware of this.

[Read our research >](#)

Consultation Responses

Age UK have submitted this consultation response in preparation for the UN Committee against Torture's review due in April 2019.

[Read Age UK's contribution here >](#)

Blog

Human rights are for us: ordinary people with ordinary lives. [Click here](#) to read Policy Manager Emily McCarron's blog post on a short film (thirteen minutes and ten seconds to be exact) depicting the true story of how an ordinary couple used Human Rights legislation to improve their care.

More from Age UK

The Annual lecture in memory of David Hobman took place on Monday 19th November. This year, Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London gave a comprehensive speech on the theme of spirituality and Ageing, which you can listen to [here](#).

Age UK information guides and factsheets

The following factsheets have been updated: How to get care and Support, Universal Credit, Returning from abroad, Resolving problems and making a complaint about NHS Care, Personal Budgets and direct payments in social care.

These are available to download from [the Age UK website](#).

Large Print versions of all the factsheets are now also available to download from [the Age UK website](#).

Age UK Research

Research Digest

The report based on The Academy of Medical Sciences' two-day workshop entitled: advancing research to tackle multimorbidity: the UK and LMIC perspectives is available to read [here](#).

Privacy policy update

You may have read about the new privacy data laws being introduced this year. This doesn't mean we're changing the way we collect or use your information; but to help make it easier for you to find out what we do, we've created a new 'Privacy Policy' which can be found at www.ageuk.org.uk/help/privacy-policy. If you have any questions or would like a printed copy, please give us a call on 0800 169 8787.

[Privacy policy](#) | [Donate to Age UK](#) |

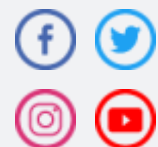
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