



Policy & Research Update September 2019

A busy autumn is in store. Read on for news of upcoming campaigns, questions for the new Government on Brexit, and our assessment of the state of health and care, as well as several new consultation responses.

News

[New housing campaign: an end to unfair evictions](#)



Over 750,000 older people rent their homes and the number is set to grow. But skyrocketing rents, dangerous living conditions and fear of eviction mean many of the most vulnerable have no security and are unable to make their house a home. Age UK is joining forces with other housing organisations to call for reforms to the Housing Act so 'no fault evictions' will be banned and everyone has a safe place to grow old.

[Read a summary of the campaign.](#)

The website will be updated with further materials, reports and case studies as the campaign progresses.

If you'd like to know more please contact campaigns@ageuk.org.uk

Feature

[New Age UK report lays out truly frightening trends in social care](#)



The report, '[The Health and Care of Older People in England 2019](#)', draws on many official statistics as well as new Age UK analysis to provide a comprehensive picture of how services are functioning today, for older people across the NHS and social care.

System failures are having an adverse impact on the care market; the total amount of home care delivered has gone down by 3 million hours between 2015 and 2018 while the worst hit local authority lost a massive 58 per cent of its nursing home beds between 2016 and 2018.

Not surprisingly against this immensely difficult context, levels of unmet need for care have been going up. In 2016, nearly 1 in 8 people aged over 65 were estimated to be struggling without all the help they needed to carry out at least one essential Activity of Daily Living. By 2018 this had increased to 1 in 7 – or 1.4 million – older people, of whom 300,000 are estimated to need help with 3 or more activities – such as getting out of bed, washing and going to the toilet.

Caroline Abrahams, Charity Director at Age UK said:

“Our new report paints a frightening picture of where our social care system is heading unless the Government intervenes quickly and decisively to arrest its spiralling decline. When you strip out the complexity the story is really very simple: demand is going up but funding and supply are going down, leaving increasing numbers of older people to fend for themselves, rely on loved ones if that’s an option for them, or pay through the nose via a hefty stealth tax without which many care homes would not stay afloat.”

[Read the report](#)

Policy & Research

Publications

[What does Brexit mean for our older generations?](#)

Age UK poses 10 questions for the new government regarding how Brexit could impact older people. [Read Age UK's concerns](#) around rights, healthcare, and pensions, among others.

Consultation Responses

[Home Office preparations for Brexit](#)

Age UK responds to the Home Office's proposed preparations regarding the EU Settlement Scheme and the rights of UK citizens living in the EU.

[Ofgem Vulnerability Strategy Response](#)

Age UK's response to energy regulator Ofgem's consultation on their updated Consumer Vulnerability Strategy.

[Adult Skills and Lifelong learning consultation response](#)

Age UK responded to the Education Select Committee's inquiry into adult skills and lifelong learning. We are concerned about falling participation in training and learning, and argue that more should be done to ensure that older learners have access to appropriate opportunities.

[Age UK evidence to the Health and Social Care Committee on the Budget and the NHS Long-Term Plan](#)

Age UK has responded to the Parliamentary Health and Social Care Select Committee inquiry into the additional funding needed to ensure the Long Term Plan can be successfully implemented.

[Regulation of pre-paid funeral plans: Age UK response to HM Treasury consultation](#)

Age UK has written to HM Treasury to express support for their proposal to bring pre-paid funeral plans under FCA regulation.

Discover



[We Are Undefeatable](#)

Age UK has joined forces with 14 other leading health and social care charities to help people with long-term health conditions experience the life-changing benefits of everyday activity.

Read about this [incredible campaign and view the film](#) featuring people who have shared their stories, triumphs and challenges.

You can see all of our **Discover** articles [here](#).

More from Age UK

Age UK information guides and factsheets

The following factsheets have been updated:

- FS1 *Help with heating costs*
- FS6 *Finding help at home*
- FS40 *Deprivation of assets in social care*
- FS44 *NHS services*
- FS82 *Getting the best energy deal*

All factsheets can be found on the Age UK website [here](#).

Large Print versions of all factsheets are now also available to download [here](#).

Our previous Policy and Research Updates are available [here](#) to download.

