

Regional Retired Members Lead Annual Report 2020

Every year we talk about to Improve Social Care and To Campaign for a National Health and Care Service Adequate adult social care funding for local authorities in all part of the country.

Well this year is no different. Due to Covid-19 we have seen the devastating effect and strain the social care has been.

Boris Johnson pledged during the elections to reform the social care services and was set to come this year before the parliament. But unfortunately as his many u-turns he changed his mind and said that it may take up to another five years before it comes to the parliament. It is said that 77 people die every day under the current failing social care system. Research shows the social care crisis is contributing to deaths that can be avoided, with 1.9 million people who need even basic care, not able to access any help at all.

The National Care Service should be funded in the same way as the NHS free at the point of need. We know the public will pay for proper care if the income is ring fenced and only used for that purpose.

A National Care Service covering both home and residential/nursing care should be created, funded like the NHS through general taxation, free at the point of use and without means testing.

CORONA VIRUS

From the very onset we were requesting and calling on all MPs to urgently raise questions with the Government over the supply of vital medical equipment and protective clothing at their own local hospitals, care homes and other care providers. But unfortunately we know how this government responded.

We have seen the effect of the pandemic, long periods of self-isolation from family and friends is causing anxiety and depression among older people. Yet new research has found that older people are less likely to discuss mental health issues and less likely to be referred for treatment than younger people. One in four over 65s has depression, but they are eight times less likely to be referred to mental health services. Mental Health Awareness Week (18-24 May), found that just 6% of older people with depression are referred to mental health services.

TRIPLE LOCK

As soon as the government started spending money to offset the pandemic the right wing think-tank starts talking about the triple lock. Luckily in the end the government decided to keep the Triple Lock for 2021. But the chancellor has indicated that it will be reviewed in 2021.

We have to be alert because triple lock is not for the older generation but it will help the younger generations in the future.

To fight to improve the State Pension

We should never back down from arguing about the fight to improve the state pension. Once again the improved pension is for the younger generation and we should keep fighting for it. The UK have the worst rate for the elderly now, but we must do our utmost to improve the basic rate.

WASPI

Once again the women suffered a massive regarding their appeal. The justices said that despite feeling sympathy for the women, the state pension age change did not amount to unlawful discrimination under human rights laws. So the fight must go on.

Time for a Real Dignity In older age

It is time for a real Dignity in older age. By promoting the idea that the care of older people needed urgent action.

All forms of abuse against older people should be recognised in law and carry appropriate sentencing, in the same way that there is specific legal protection for children.