

North East Pensioners Association

Regional Impact Report on issues affecting pensioners wellbeing in JUNE 2024 including: 1. Care Homes & Housing, 2. Economy, 3. Health & Welfare, 4. The NHS, 5. Politics, 6. Poverty, 7. Security and 8. Transport.



Note for more reading click on underlined words

1. CARE HOMES/CARERS.

We need to amplify the voice of older renters in the Renters reform Bill. There is a growing proportion renting privately. Between 2009–10 and 2020–21 the number of privately renting households in England with someone living in them aged 65 or over increased from 258,000 to 403,000 — an increase of 56% (IndependentAge).



Alzheimer's Society question to MP candidates. 70% of older people's care home residents, and 60% of those receiving care in their own homes, have dementia. How will you/your party make sure that there are enough well-trained staff to provide high-quality, personalised dementia care (Alzheimer's Society)?

Nearly half of England's care workers get less than real living wage, study finds. Analysis by the Institute for Public Policy Research for the Living Wage Foundation found that 400,000 workers in social care (43% of the workforce) in England are paid less than £12 an hour (Guardian).



2. ECONOMY

The North East has significantly the highest rate of economic inactivity in England. The region has the country's lowest rate of employment. The current rates of economic inactivity have not been seen in the region since the financial crash of 2008-9 (Chronicle).



Private providers winning big fees on UK public sector contracts. In a Financial Times article it was explained that "private companies are charging lucrative fees to manage contracts across swathes of the UK public sector, pushing up the overall costs to taxpayers" (PPRG/NottinghamUni).

Institute of Fiscal Studies Election 2024 Pension Review. This concise 20 page report examines 5 key decisions that need to be taken by the incoming government.

1. Decide whether to provide additional support to those not able to work up to an increased state pension age, and how any such support should be targeted.
2. Decide on a long-term plan is needed for the level of the state pension.
3. Decide whether to go ahead with legislated increases in minimum pension contributions.
4. Decide to target a long-term policy solution to support pension saving among the self-employed.
5. Decide to develop policies to help people draw on their private pension wealth appropriately (IFS).



The next government has been urged to commit to protect essential frontline services. Leaders in the North East have backed calls from the Local Government Association pleading with all political parties to act on a predicted £6.2 billion financial black hole facing town halls across England (NorthumberlandGazette).

3. HEALTH AND WELFARE

Global projections of heat exposure of older adults. Study finds Heat exposure of older people across world to double by 2050. Extra 270 million adults aged 69 or over will suffer dangerous heat levels of 37.5C amid global heating and ageing populations ([Guardian](#)).



Planning for the End of Life. This is a really helpful 10 page document from the [National Pensioners Convention](#) and the NBS. The only problem is you will need a computer or a friend with a computer to fully access it ([click here](#)).

- Wills,
- Lasting Powers of Attorney,
- Living Wills, also known as an Advance Decision,
- Social Care Services, Bereavement Services,
- Burial Cremation and Funerals, Benefits,
- When a family member has died you will need to.....



Dementia predicted 'up to nine years before diagnosis' with new brain test. Researchers from London analysed connections in the brain when it is in "idle mode" to look for very early signs. The findings are published in the [Journal of Nature Mental Health](#) ([Mirror](#)).

Age UK Petition for the new Government. This to ask party leaders to commit to prioritising social care reform as a top priority for the next Government. Will you sign it too. ([AGEUK](#)).



Joe McElderry joined Age UK for their Singalong Memories group in South Shields. The singing sensation kindly volunteered for Age UK, as part of [The Big Help Out 2024](#) to encourage volunteers to help Age UK with their work ([S/Gazette](#)).

4. THE NHS

Thousands of NHS patients to trial new personalised cancer vaccine in 'landmark moment'. NHS England chief executive Amanda Pritchard said: "Thanks to advances in care and treatment, cancer survival is at an all-time high in this country ([Independent](#)).



NHS corridor care. 1 in 3 nursing staff working in typical hospital settings delivered care in inappropriate settings, such as corridors, on their last shift. The RCN survey of almost 11,000 frontline nursing staff across the UK shows the extent to which corridor care has been normalised ([RCN Report](#)).

End of Life Care. North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust have become the first in the region to develop simulation learning for nurses supporting patients receiving end of life care and their families ([NHS](#)).

People aged 65 and over arriving at A&E in England who appear frail will soon receive a "health MOT at the front door". The head of the NHS will pledged. If they are frail or have any other underlying condition and then arrange whatever care they may need ([Guardian](#)).

NHS Newcastle hospital department has been rebuilt by new management after critical reports. The Newcastle Hospitals [NHS](#) Trust has made the decision to publish four damning reports into culture, behaviours and management at its Freeman Hospital Cardiothoracic unit - which carries out heart and lung care ([Chronicle](#)).



NHS Growing Backlog. According to the latest NHS data release waiting lists stood at 7.57 million cases. These consisting of approximately 6.33 million individual patients waiting for treatment and around 3.16 million of these patients had been waiting over 18 weeks and 302,000 for over a year ([BMA](#)).

5. POLITICS

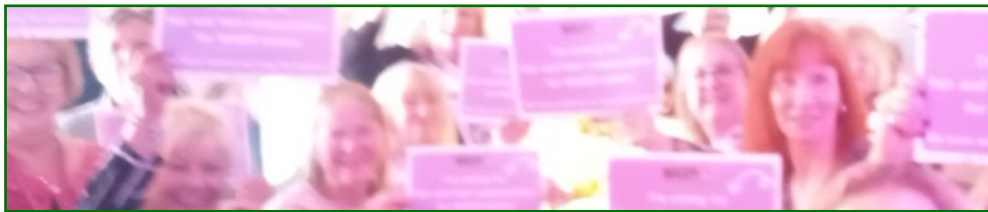


NPC General Election Hustings Gateshead Town Hall Council Chamber Monday 1 July 2024 at 1pm.



The National Pensioners Convention (Northern Region) are organising the hustings to allow their members and people and organisations working with older people to hear the official parties response to the question - **Why should we vote for you?** The parties will participate in a Q&A session. The afternoon will be jointly chaired by Norman Jamison the National President of the NPC and Christine Smith Chair of the North East **Women Against State Pension Inequality** (as pictured above).

The NPC(NR) Secretary Alec McFadden is asking attendees for organisational and safety reasons to please: a) give notice of their attendance at: alecstuc@gmail.com and b) submit any questions for the parties prior to the event at: alecstuc@gmail.com



NPC MANIFESTO FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The National Pensioners' Convention with over 1m members urges all political parties to prioritise policies that will provide dignity and security for everybody, particularly people in later life. They are calling for:

- 1. Urgent and sustained action on the cost-of-living crisis**, with an effective strategy to address poverty, including a fairer tax system with the basic tax threshold to be retrospectively adjusted to account for inflation since its freezing, and thereafter index-linked to annual inflation rates.
- 2. A decent state pension**, set at 70% of the Living Wage (£294 weekly in 2024), and linked to the triple lock; maintenance of universal pensioner entitlements; a halt to the planned rise in State Pension Age.
- 3. A National Care Service**, funded from general taxation, free at the point of delivery, with its own independent monitoring unit, working alongside a fully funded and fully public NHS.
- 4. Safe, dependable, accessible, and publicly owned, public transport**; proper staffing on trains and stations, including ticket offices; improvements to the national concessionary travel scheme; and a reversal of the major decline in bus services, particularly in rural areas.
- 5. A major housebuilding programme** to solve the national housing crisis, including 85,000 sustainable homes yearly for older people.
- 6. Climate change action** to meet Net Zero targets: insulate existing homes to save energy, reduce bills and improve people's health; regulate energy profits; provide free basic energy to all households.
- 7. An end to digital exclusion**: ensure equitable and affordable access to information and services; maintain local access to cash.
- 8. Voter ID** to be scrapped. It has disenfranchised many people, especially from poorer, older, and ethnic minority communities.
- 9. A Commissioner for Older People** in all four nations to act as an independent champion and to ensure that policy and practice across government considers the needs of people in later life and the implications of our ageing population on society (NPC).

2. POVERTY.



Marie Curie question to MP candidates. “90,000 people die in poverty every year in the UK – with many people pushed into poverty after a diagnosis. Will you raise this with your party leader” ([Marie Curie](#))?

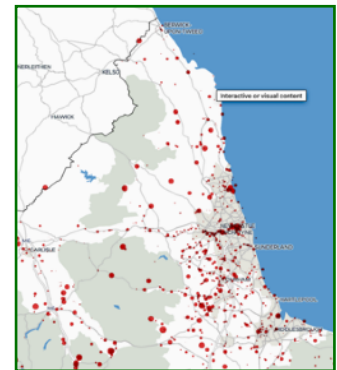
Pensioners have been warned. The DWP is checking thousands of their bank statements following a huge rise in fraud. The DWP revealed that there were £520m in Pension Credit overpayments paid out in the last financial year, an increase of £190 million from the previous year ([D&STimes](#)).

End Child Poverty. 118,000 children are living in poverty in Tyne and Wear, Northumberland and County Durham. The highest rate of poverty was seen in Newcastle, where more than a third (33.8%) of children are growing up poor. This according to the End Child Poverty Coalition ([Chronicle](#)).

3. SECURITY.



Stamp out Scams - over £1bn was lost last year. The Which Magazine are demanding that the next government tackles the scams epidemic by pointing a fraud minister to make fighting fraud a national priority ([Which](#)).



Sewage spills into England's rivers and seas by water companies more than doubled in 2023. According to the Environment Agency, there were 3.6 million hours of spills, compared to 1.75 million hours in 2022. Was sewage discharged near you? [Click here](#) for interactive map ([BBC](#)).

8. TRANSPORT



Council leaders have signed off a £17.6m investment to pay for 95 environmentally-friendly buses. The North East Combined Authority backed plans to see one in 10 buses in the region provide zero emissions by 2025. NECA also approved plans to spend £2.1m on 92 electric vehicle charging points ([BBC](#)).

Newcastle Clean Air Zone cuts number of high-polluting vehicles in city centre by more than half. The number of high-polluting vehicles being driven through Newcastle city centre has been cut by 16,000 per week since the introduction of Clean Air Zone tolls ([Chronicle](#)).

Sean Fahey
NEPA Secretary



**If you want to know more contact the NEPA Secretary at
Email: nepacontact@gmail.com or Tel. 01670 361981**

[NEPA Website Click Here.](#)

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