

# PENSIONERS MANIFESTO

## Local Issues

### Health Inequalities

- Identify and address the socio-economic and environmental causes of health inequalities including pensioner and fuel poverty which militate against healthy living, wellbeing and community involvement.
- Campaign for legislative reform that protects the rights of the vulnerable and the marginalized.

### Social Care

- End further damaging cuts to social care funding and protections that result in failure to meet the needs of older people.
- Commit to the NPC Dignity Code and imbed its principles within Council Commissioning Policy to ensure that recipients are able to live in dignity and comfort and care workers are highly trained, properly remunerated and their working conditions protected.
- *Enforce* regulatory standards in care and nursing homes and ensure compliance with the Human Rights Act and an end to elder abuse.
- *Bring back care homes in to Local Authority Care*

### Housing.

- Increase the housing stock by building new *Social Housing*.
- Ensure that the tenants and residents are at the heart of estate regeneration and fully engaged in planning developments including design and the appointment of architects and contractors. *Final proposals must be put to ballot to residents.*
- Support and strengthen advice for older people who wish to downsize and adapt their homes to meet their needs.
- Protect the rights of older private renters to security of tenure. *Campaign for a Return to rent controls*
- Tackle homelessness amongst older people by providing a proper safety net when they fall into difficulties.

### Public services

- Recognise the importance of **community centres** and other **cultural facilities** that support the community and voluntary groups that engage with older people.
- *Restore the ten fully equipped and staffed libraries* as centres of research, learning, recreation and general interest.
- Provide **Later Life Learning** opportunities through adult education and community centres to expand interest and capability including internet capability.
- Ensure that **pavements** are safe and accessible and increase **seating** in public spaces and that there are sufficient accessible **public toilets**. *Businesses being paid by the council for public use of their toilets must advertise / use stickers in their windows to let the public this.*
- Improve **street lighting** in order to ensure safety and reduce fear.
- **Policing – bring back local beat officers**

## Participation

- Involve people in any decisions regarding the funding of local services, changes and new initiatives in order that their views are known and their voices heard.

## Transport

- Commit to protect the Freedom pass
- Work closely with Transport for London to ensure step free stations,
- Protect the safety of the elderly and disabled people by joining the campaign against driver only trains.
- Ensure the safety of the elderly and disabled people by providing better and appropriate training for transport staff.
- Commit to improving mobility prospects and active participation of older and disabled people in community activities by improving the Dial- a Ride and Taxi card services by collaborating with relevant organisations.

## Social Isolation and Loneliness

- Commit to protecting the Meals on Wheels service
- Commit to ensuring that isolated individuals are supported to access the most appropriate day services across the Council and voluntary sector to ensure that older people are supported to reduce loneliness and social isolation. *Internet connection is not the solution*
- Commit to the development of integrate models of support for individuals with disabilities and older people including; mental health services to ensure that they are provided with services and connected to relevant voluntary organisations at an early stage.

Take the manifesto wherever you are to strengthen our voice, We live in Lambeth and despite the constraints which have been put on the local authority as a result of the governments' Austerity measures, we have elected a Labour Council whose main aim should be to prioritise, to serve the community and to meet need of all young and old.. As a Labour Council they should be bolder in coming out with us in defending the Welfare State and Public services with us. So far we have not seen much evidence of this.

We too have a job to do. We need to organise and mobilise to counteract the challenges that face us in retirement. We deserve much better than what we experiencing .today.

So enjoy the summer break with friends and families. Recoup your energy for actions that will secure dignity and respect for all of us in retirement. See you in September.

Beat wishes.

Ellen Lebethe.