

## **FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER**

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**MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2020**  
**NPC ME Group / Lambeth Pensioners Action Group**  
**Assembly Hall**  
**Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, SW2 1RW**  
**12.30 pm to 3.00 pm**

### **DIGNITY IN CARE & WINDRUSH**

**Speakers: Ciara Mackay, Director of Vulnerable Adults, Guys and St Thomas' Hospital Foundation Trust. Dignity in Hospital care**

**Cllr Patrick Vernon. Social commentator and political activist  
Windrush Scandal**

**As older people we have exactly the same rights as everybody else. However, when it comes to the implementation of these rights, we face a number of challenges. We often face age discrimination of particular forms, loneliness and isolation, pensioner and fuel poverty, damp, poorly insulated housing, inadequate social care, elder abuse, inaccessible transport and much more. The treatment of older people with dignity is and should be the central tenant of all communications, and interactions personal or formal. Sadly this is not always the case. In this month of Dignity in Action, we should not only highlight the crucial importance of dignity in all circumstances amid cases, but work towards a situation where these are the norm. Treatment with dignity is a right not a privilege,**

**Following the Windrush Scandal the government set up a scheme to help those affected people to get the documentation needed to enable them to remain in the UK. The scheme started on 30 May 2018 and has been painfully slow. On April 2019 the government set up a Compensation Scheme to compensate between 15,000 and 30,000 people. Today only 36 people have received compensation payments, 10 months after the scheme's launch. One applicant received the paltry sum of £22,000 which she has rightfully rejected. To add insult to injury the Home Office has revealed an extension to claims of two years.**

**This is an important meeting which not only focuses on the issue of human rights but also on justice for those people whose lives have been so cruelly affected. Wrongs need to be righted and justice done.**

**Light buffet, tea, coffee raffle.**

**PLEASE NOTE MEETING TIME**

### **Over 75's TV Licences**

**The clock is ticking down fast to the 31 May deadline when the universal benefits are scrapped. The NPC is calling on the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson to keep his pre-election promise and retain the free TV licences for over 75's. Jan Shortt, NPC General Secretary commented, "Loneliness and isolation are huge issues for older people. For many the television is their window to the world and the only company they have. With over two million older people living below the poverty line, they cannot afford the £154.40 for the TV licence." The NPC strongly believes that the government and not the BBC has responsibility of funding the free over 75s TV licence as part of a wider package of universal benefits. Universal benefits are under threat and we need to move fast. Whether we are over 75 or not, this is a cause that we should all be campaigning for. At the moment this issue has been buried under the current post Brexit issues. We cannot afford for this important issue to go off the radar.**

### **Ambulance service in crisis**

**1.5m patients have been kept waiting in ambulances for half an hour or more. This could be an underestimate of the times. NHS guidance says that patients in ambulances should be passed into care of hospital staff within 15 minutes. Many are elderly and in desperate need. Not a single London A&E hit the target of seeing and discharging or admitting patients within 4 hours. What is more, long delays are putting people at risk. Long waits are related to staff shortages and lack of capacity inside the relevant accident and emergency departments. In an attempt to address the rising problem, plans have been agreed (November 2019) to avoid "conveyances" to emergency departments by treating more people in their homes or at the scene or by referring them to community services. This is not a solution to the problem. The problem of long waits for ambulances needs to be seen as part of the underfunding of the NHS and the resultant impact on hospital staff and services in general.**

### **LAMPAG AGM**

**The AGM will take place on Monday 16 March. The AGM is important because it provides us with an opportunity to elect a full, committed and proactive team of officers and committee members who will ensure that we meet our objectives and build a viable and sustainable action group. A group is as effective as its committee and the participation and support of its membership. For the last 40 years LAMPAG has been holding well attended monthly meetings led by effective speakers, in dissemination relevant information and in being visible on national and local campaigns and demonstrations aimed at empowering members to defend the Welfare State, Public Services and to call for social justice for today's and tomorrow's pensioners. AGM documents will go out early in March. Please do read them carefully and consider volunteering to take up a position on the committee. We need your support.**

### **Subscriptions**

**As you are aware we are a pensioners' action group run by pensioners for pensioners. We do not have charitable status and depend entirely on members' subscriptions, donations, fundraising events and raffles. Thank you to members who have paid their annual subscriptions. We value your support which has sustained us up to now. For those who have not done so, I would appeal to you to do so. On the other hand it will be good if you could let us know whether you no longer wish to remain a member of the group.**