

Over 75's TV Licence

Thank you to members who joined thousands of pensioners across the country on 21 June to call on the Government to continue to fund the over 70s TV licence. The petitions to oppose the BBCs plans to cut funding the TV licence for the over 75s secured more than 100,000 signatures. This means in effect that it will now be debated in the House of Commons on Monday 15 July. The speeches outside the BBC as well as the march down Regent Street and blocking off of traffic around Oxford Circus had the desired effect of not only highlighting our cause but that of eliciting a lot of support from the public.

All the political parties in Westminster support our cause apart from the Conservatives. The NPC has called for some MPs who have come out in sympathy with our campaign to be targeted, be asked to attend the debate on 15 July and speak in favour of the Government taking back the responsibility for funding the concession from 2020. Is the Government's job to administer or part fund our wider welfare policy and not the BBCs.

Lambeth Country Show

The annual Lambeth Country Show will take place in Brockwell Park on Saturday 20 July and Sunday 21 July. Lambeth TUC has again provided a space in their tent for a LAMPAG stall. LAMPAG is celebrating its 40th year as a pensioners campaign group and it is important that we use opportunities such as these to continue to engage with the public and to highlight the challenges facing the older generation and to enlist public support and build the group. Members are asked to sign up on the rota which will be available on Monday to take turns at the stall on either day. There will be a lot of publicity material and handouts to attract the public. We need your help.

Proposed changes to Adult Social Care fees and Charges.

Lambeth Local Authority is consulting on Changes to Adult Social Care fees and charges. The first consultation took place on 8 July and the next one will be held on 30 September from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm at 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA.

The changes range from charges for domiciliary care for the second carer when two carers are required at the same, to increasing Meals on Wheels from £3 to £4 per meal, introducing a charge for setting up deferred payments agreements, charging £4 per week for community alarm / technology-enabled care charges and some others. (See Adult Social Care fees and charges proposed changes) for full list.

Lambeth claims that its aim is 'to provide support to those most in need'. It justifies the increases by stating that 'Lambeth often charges less than other London boroughs or excludes elements of care packages from charges that other London boroughs include.' Furthermore, it blames the number of changes being proposed to their fees and charges on 'financial constraints'. While empathising with 'older and disabled people already experiencing financial challenges having to pay more', it nevertheless proposes increasing fees and charges in the full knowledge 'that Lambeth remains one of the most deprived areas in the country- it is the 8th most deprived borough in London and the 22nd most deprived in England'. These changes will affect the very people the council says it aims to support. Our views on Social Care funding, on vulnerable people not receiving the care they need, on the outsourcing of care and on poorly trained and underpaid care workers are clear and explicit. Our demand is for a Social Care system funded through general taxation and free at the point of delivery. We have to respond to the consultation in our numbers by having our voices heard on the proposed changes. It will not only affect those who receive care at present but also those of us who will need care in the future.

Committee Meeting Monday 22 July 2019. 11 am - 1 pm Lambeth Town Hall. Room 1-16