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Monday 21 November 2022

Room 16

Lambeth Town Hall

Brixton Hill SW2 1RW

12.00 pm to 2.30 pm

Cost of Living Crisis and Older People

Speaker: George Stanbury, Campaign Manager, Independent Age

An issue of paramount concern at the present time for communities across the country is the rising cost of living. We are seeing the highest inflation in decades and pensioners on low and middle incomes are feeling the pinch the hardest. Prices of everyday items are going up so quickly that they are at risk of being totally overwhelmed. Some older people have no other source of income besides their pensions which is one of the lowest in the developed world. Growing numbers of pensioners are finding that their income does not match their expenditure. Many say that their mental health is deteriorating and that they feel extremely anxious about the coming winter. Energy prices have soared beyond expectations leaving some pensioners to make the stark choice between heating and eating- a killer question.

Statistics have shown that in 2021 / 2022 between 1.4 and 2.1 million pensioners were living in poverty. Older people from Black and Asian communities were found to be more likely to be living in poverty than their white counterparts. The prediction is that 2 million older households will not have high enough incomes to cover their essential spending in 2022-2023. This is a frightening forecast for the future state of the health and well being of older people in their later years. Things will only get worse if pensions fail to rise in line with inflation and energy price rises hit consumer prices. Our expectation to enjoy financial security in retirement and all that it entails is slowly receding with pensioners asking the recurring questions "**What** makes a good society in which to grow old, **how** do we achieve it and **who** needs to be involved.

The cost of living crisis concerns us all. Come and join the discussion. Articulate your personal experiences of pensioner poverty. Bring your thoughts to bare on what needs to change to make a real and lasting difference. **We deserve better!**

Tea, coffee, biscuits, raffle

Committee Meeting: Monday 28 November, Lambeth Town Hall 11.00 am to 1.00 pm.

Urgent Notice

We will not have a meeting in December. The next meeting will be held on Monday 16 January 2023 in the Houses of Parliament.