

SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

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**LAMPAG OPEN MEETING
MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2017
Stockwell Gardens Estate
20 Eastcote Road
Stockwell, London SW9 9JU
12.00 pm to 2.30 pm**

“IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING”

Speaker: TBC. (NHS Lambeth Clinical Commissioning Group)

As we age, one of our main concerns is to keep as healthy and well as possible. Being well and healthy contributes to a rewarding and enjoyable retirement and to active participation in community activities. Sadly, inequalities exist in Lambeth which will impact on our hopes for a hard-earned retirement. It also true that life expectancy in Lambeth is lower and premature mortality is higher for a number of and across a range of health conditions.

The Lambeth Clinical Commissioning Group (LCCG) was set up in April 2013 to improve the health and wellbeing in Lambeth. Its role is to commission services on behalf of the people who living the area.

It is important that we, the recipients of health services, have the opportunity to express our views about what we expect from our health services with regard to enhancing our health and wellbeing, reducing health inequalities and ensuring that we have equal access and quality health care.

We will be joined by Euan Sadler, a Senior Research fellow at Kings College London. He is conducting research in which Age UK Lambeth is a collaborator. The research focuses on improving the delivery and implementation of care for frail older people in Lambeth and Southwark. He will speak about his research and seek our feedback. This meeting presents valuable opportunity for us to express our views on what constitutes quality health and social care in both health and social Care delivery.

We are returning from our summer recess to a future of anger about cuts to the NHS, fury over the cap to public service workers' pay. The RCN (Royal College of Nurses) sent out a strong and resolute message to Theresa May to end Austerity and the pay cap. They vowed to take strike action to back their demands. Unions are calling for an end to the pay cap for everyone working in the NHS, schools, and higher education, local government and the police service. Over 2 million poor families will be more £50 worse off by the end of the decade as a result of welfare cuts, crippling rent rises and looming inflation. Hostility to Austerity is spreading and uncertainty over Brexit looming.

There has been a summer of Tory U-turns. The pledge to retain the triple lock on pensions was downgraded to a double lock in the Tory election manifesto then reversed as part of the DUP deal. The controversial plan to means test the Winter Fuel payment disappeared from the Queen's speech. The social care asset threshold labelled the "Dementia Tax" was dropped after howls of protest. These U-turns were prompted not by a Tory change of heart but by the power of protest and the threats of a winter of discontent.

It is now up to us to continue to put pressure on a weakened Tory government to end Austerity which blights the lives of communities across the country and to campaign and lobby for the implementation of the Pensioners Manifesto.

1 OCTOBER OLDER PEOPLES DAY

1 October is an important day for older people all over the world. It is the day when older people globally celebrate their achievements and contributions to their families, communities, societies and the economy - often ignored and dismissed. It is also the day when they draw attention to and highlight the issues which impact on the quality of their lives and which preclude many from living out their later years with dignity and respect.

On 1 October, older people will raise awareness of their governments' responses to their growing and changing needs and demand that they rise to the challenges confronting an ageing population. Despite their differing circumstances and their varying life chances, older people all over the world make major contributions to the economy and society. These are not always valued and acknowledged. **International Older People's Day provides an opportunity to put the record straight.**

We will be Celebrating Age and Black History month on 23 October with an event in the Stockwell Resource Centre. Details to follow.

NPC LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT 18 OCTOBER

Pensioners from all over the country will be attending the Lobby of Parliament. This an important day in the pensioners calendar because pensioners will be meeting in the Houses of Parliament, the seat of government where bills are passed that impact on their lives. We have a government determined to continue to pursue the Austerity agenda. The Lobby of Parliament provides an opportunity for us to raise concerns with our MPs. Amongst the issues are the totally inadequate state pension, the threat to the triple lock, the rising pension age, pensioner and fuel poverty and the related cold related illnesses, the crisis in social care, threats to attendance and winter fuel allowance, TV licences and concessionary bus passes. **Speakers to be confirmed.**

Meet 10.15am on steps Lambeth Town Hall for departure at 10.30 am for Houses of Parliament or make your way to Old Palace Yard opposite House of Lords for 11.30 for a photo call. (See enclosed flyer for more information). Please do make an effort to attend.

Committee meeting. Monday 25 September, Manor Court. 11am to 1.00pm

