



Manifesto for Change

Leeds Older People's Forum has produced our Manifesto for Change in order to amplify the needs and concerns of older people in Leeds, and to influence politicians and policy-makers

Leeds Older People's Forum four priorities for change:

1

Social and community-based care needs adequate funding to ensure it is high quality and personalised

2

Prevention must be given a high priority so we all have a good quality of life not just additional years

3

Older people in Leeds must be listened to ensure we are a truly age and dementia friendly city

4

Age must be respected, with greater recognition as a protected characteristic, enabling people to age with dignity

1

Social and community based care needs adequate funding to ensure it is high quality and personalised

LOPF¹ Recommendations:

- 1.1 Social care, whether home-based or residential should be available at a reasonable cost, consistent and reliable
- 1.2 Multidisciplinary teams inclusive of the third sector to ensure holistic care and continued wellbeing
- 1.3 Resource Primary Care for timely, straightforward access to good GP services, supported with a full range of personalised nursing and ancillary medical care
- 1.4 Bring equity to dying well with good quality, personalised care for everyone - with advanced care plans for all

Social care has been in 'crisis' for decades. There are acknowledged gaps in support within the community for older people due to governmental inaction over the complexities of funding. The result impacts on hospitals and more importantly on people's lives and increasing inequality - with parts of Leeds having the lowest life expectancy for women in the country.²

Our multidisciplinary [Enhance Programme](#) with Leeds Community Healthcare Trust enables clinical staff to concentrate on what they do best whilst third sector staff focus on social engagement and activity; person-centred care, maximising finances and improving health and wellbeing.

The Age UK Leeds Home Comfort service is integrated within the Home Ward managed by Leeds Community Healthcare Trust enabling the provision of personalised clinical and non-clinical holistic support for people in receipt of treatment.

LOPF's [Trending Elders](#) survey shows GP access is a major problem compounded for some by digitalisation of appointments. This will worsen if plans for building new homes increase without plans for sufficient primary care.

The opportunity to die well is not available to all. Almost half of all deaths occur in hospital. We know that is not where most people want to die.³

2

Prevention must be prioritised over crisis support so we all have a good quality of life not just additional years

LOPF Recommendations:

- 2.1 Prioritise sustained and secure funding into the third sector: a stronger third sector prevents people from living in poor health as they age
- 2.2 Make access to financial benefits, especially Pension Credit easier
- 2.3 Compensate WASPI women
- 2.4 Encourage self-management of our health, taking a gendered approach to ensure prevention messages reach men and women alike

1 LOPF = Leeds Older People's Forum

2 [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667\(21\)00205-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(21)00205-X/fulltext)

3 <https://healthwatchleeds.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/EOLC-Report.pdf>

- 2.5 Require flexible employment practices with major employers following Leeds City Council's lead to sign the [age friendly employer pledge](#)
- 2.6 Implement the mandatory requirement for all new homes to be built to accessible standards from 2026
- 2.7 All existing housing should be brought up to decent homes standards

The [Leeds Neighbourhood Networks](#) evaluation shows community based organisations support healthy ageing and reduce the use of health resources. The continued reduction of local government financing makes funding to community organisations precarious. We saw a 10% reduction in the number of registered charities in Leeds between 2020 and 2022.⁴

The link between health and financial inclusion are well referenced⁵. People from culturally diverse backgrounds in the most deprived areas become frail 11 years younger than white people in the least deprived areas⁶.

In Leeds there is over £30M unclaimed pension credit.⁷

Men are more likely to die at a younger age⁸. The healthy life expectancy for men born in Leeds is 61.4 / women 63.9⁹ approx five years before State Pension Age. At the same time we know there are 12% of people 50+ in Leeds who are out of work and looking for employment.

Good quality, accessible housing is vital for good health. Public Health investment in services like [Home Plus](#) is vital to wellbeing. Older people in Leeds told us it's important to them to stay in their own home and live independently as long as possible and to have enough affordable age friendly housing available - new, old and specialist¹⁰

The Government committed to mandate all new homes being built to category M4(2) accessible standards in 2022 but the implementation in building regulations has still not happened.

3 Older people in Leeds must be listened to ensure we are a truly age and dementia friendly City

LOPF Recommendations:

- 3.1 Transport policy makers and providers must engage with older people in an accessible way to ensure their voices are heard and an accessible mass transit system is developed
- 3.2 A West Yorkshire Older People's Commissioner to be appointed to work closely with the Mayor to represent older people at all levels of policy design and development
- 3.3 LOPF stand with Age UK, Centre for Ageing Better and Independent Age in the call for the next government to appoint an Older People's Commissioner for England in line with Wales and Northern Ireland

Our [Equalities Hub for Older People](#) told us many problems they experience with transport is a lack of bus routes in some areas; multiple connections needed to reach hospital appointments and inability to use a bus pass before 9.30 a.m. Wheelchair accessible taxis are hard to book. This leaves people isolated, lonely and removes their independence. We will continue to listen to older

4 [State of the Sector report, 2022](#)

5 [The Relationship Between Poverty And NHS Services | The King's Fund \(kingsfund.org.uk\)](#)

6 <https://ageing-better.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-12/the-state-of-ageing-in-leeds.pdf>

7 www.leeds.gov.uk/age-friendly-leeds

8 [Written evidence by Men's Health Unlocked Leeds to Health and Social Care Committee on a Men's Health Strategy](#)

9 [PHE Fingertips 2018 - 20](#)

10 [State of Ageing in Leeds: Qualitative Engagement, QA Research, Jan 2022](#)

people's transport issues in our [Travel Connections](#)¹¹ programme, but we need policy makers and providers to work with us.

Issues affecting older people span all Government departments. With an ageing demographic we need an Older People's Commissioner to ensure future needs are met by working across Government raising the issues affecting older people.

The [Age Friendly Leeds Board](#) provides a mechanism to raise issues affecting older people. People with a voice influence their environment and their quality of life; they can say where things are working and where they are not. In Leeds we give people a voice through the Age Friendly Steering Group who have made age friendly recommendations to the Leeds Market and Leeds Railway Station (Network Rail).

4 Age must be respected, with greater recognition as a protected characteristic, enabling people to age with dignity

LOPF Recommendations:

- 4.1 Work with older people and LOPF to reframe ageing and the positive contribution of ageing is fully recognised
- 4.2 Listen to older people at a community level, promoting community wellbeing through empowerment
- 4.3 Training on ageism is an integral part of 'Diversity, Equity, Including and Belonging' training across Government Departments, statutory sector and incentivise commissioned providers towards age friendly practices

In Leeds almost 3000 people aged 80 and over are unpaid carers.¹² Nationally we know people aged between 65 and 74 are the most likely to volunteer.¹³ Reframe the increasingly toxic inter-generational debate into an all age positive one.

LOPF engages with [older activists](#) working to effect change in their communities. We support this, for example '[Hey Neighbour](#)' approach.

The UN reported ageism as the last acceptable 'ism'¹⁴. Leeds Older People's Forum do not accept ageism, nor should anyone, which is why we deliver '[Wise Up To Ageism](#)'.

11 [Travel Connections](#) (on Lopf website)

12 [Market Position Statement 2024](#)

13 [Demographics of Volunteers, NCVO, 2023](#)

14 <https://ilcuk.org.uk/ageism-can-no-longer-remain-the-last-acceptable-ism/>

Leeds
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Would you like to express your commitment to our manifesto?

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