

# Pensioners Forum Wales

Pensioners Forum Wales is a national forum of older people made up of representatives from various national pensioners organisations and retired members' sections of trade union organisations

## ▶ Manifesto

### The aims of Pensioners Forum Wales are:

- To work together for the benefit of all older people in Wales
- To add equality, dignity and respect to ageing and enhance the quality of later life

Positive action to help older people to lead long and active lives by promoting healthy lifestyles and lifelong learning through leisure centres, libraries and adult education centres

Improved, integrated and accessible transport services in all areas

- The extension of the free bus pass scheme to include free nationwide public and community transport
- Freedom pass for use on all forms of public transport
- Better subsidies provided to support financially non-viable services at evenings and weekends

## Our Key Calls:

### Action to end ageism and age discrimination

Age discrimination does not have the same status as other forms of discrimination. There are still too many examples of:

- The poor representation of older people in the media
- Unequal treatment when accessing health and social services
- Discrimination in financial services, especially concerning online only deals
- Lack of choice and quality in goods and services

### An end to fuel poverty

This will never happen while profits are more important than people. Older people need access to affordable energy to enable them to live in safety and comfort. Consideration should be given to older people's limited fixed income, health needs and the amount of time they spend at home. More information should be made available on insulation

Retain the NHS as envisaged at its inception; free at the point of delivery

Domiciliary and social care funded through general taxation

The dignity of, and respect for, older people to be placed at the centre of all care services

- Dignity should be the norm and abuse should not be tolerated. Dignity should include respect for privacy, support in eating, drinking and using the bathroom, independent advocacy services in hospitals and the choice of a male or female assistant to help with care
- All staff should be trained to NHS standards and monitored at regular intervals. There needs to be recruitment of sufficient Welsh-speaking staff in Welsh-speaking areas, to care for Welsh-speaking older people
- Older people must be consulted in decision-making

## Increased availability of affordable and appropriate homes

- Rent control and help for older people who wish to downsize
- Increase of smaller new build properties and bungalows
- Funding provided for adaptations for older home owners and tenants
- All older people to be able to live in safe and comfortable accommodation

## Improved availability of good quality information and advice that is easy to understand

This needs to be improved quickly to enable people to be better informed on issues which affect them. Cut out bureaucracy and provide forms and information in plain, everyday language. Effective communication by telephone and letter should always be available

## Access to local community services, post offices, shops, health services, public toilets and places to socialise to ensure local communities remain vibrant

There needs to be a shift towards community cohesion and neighbourliness as seen in past generations and during the Covid-19 crisis. Local amenities need to be more fit for purpose and employ more staff. Older people need to be able to choose whether they wish to become part of the digital revolution and not be discriminated against if they do not. Training should be more readily available for those wishing to participate

## Continued access to cash on high streets and in communities

## For further information please contact:

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[www.pensionersforumwales.org](http://www.pensionersforumwales.org)  
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