



## Welsh Senate of Older People

# Welsh Senate of Older People Manifesto 2021

The Welsh Senate of Older People is an independent, amalgamated force combining the voices of local and national organisations to empower older people across Wales.

### Main aims:

- To identify important issues that are of concern to, impact on, or otherwise affect the interests of older people in Wales
- To articulate and bring these issues and concerns to the attention of central government, to Welsh Government, other agencies and bodies and the general public
- To support the work of and make representations to the Older People's Commissioner for Wales

### Key calls:

#### Combating ageism and age discrimination

- Review legislation and processes that indirectly discriminate against older people.
- Combat and challenge discriminatory language and attitudes in Welsh society.
- Promote and implement intergenerational programmes to enable Wales to become an age-friendly country.
- Remove financial barriers to older people taking part in adult education. Bursaries and grants to be made available to those who are 60 and over.

#### Information and engagement

- Information on issues affecting older people and support available to be fully accessible and written in clear language.
- Older people to be fully informed and consulted on legislation that affects them. Information to be made available in all forms, not just electronically, and be widely distributed in communities. Older people to be involved in decisions made at all levels of government. Consultations

should not be merely an exercise, but an integrated part of decision-making and the legislative process.

#### Digital exclusion

- Enact legislation to prevent service and product providers moving to online only availability.
- Provide financial support for older people who would like to be digitally included.
- Provide more free equipment and internet access in community spaces.

#### Health and care services

- Frontline health services to be available in communities. Lack of GPs and nurse practitioners causes delays in accessing appointments and vital services for older people.
- Hospital transport to be improved. Older people experience difficulties accessing appointments owing to issues with non-emergency ambulance services and a lack of public transport routes to hospitals and health centres.
- Ensure local pharmacies and pharmacy-delivered services are retained.

- Older people to be treated with dignity and be fully informed and involved regarding testing and treatment.
- The care sector to be professionalised. Higher wages, professional training and a clear career path will encourage workers to choose the care sector and will improve the level of care provided.
- Health and care services to be integrated.

### **Public facilities and the built environment**

- Public toilets to be available in all city, town and villages in Wales. Clean and safe public toilets are essential to enable older people to remain active and to access their communities.
- Public areas, facilities and shopping centres to be accessible to all. Street design should include seating and places to meet for older people.

### **Fuel poverty**

- Energy efficiency schemes to be improved so older people can access support to make their homes safe and warm.
- Energy suppliers to offer low cost schemes equivalent to online-only deals to those people who cannot access the internet.
- Energy costs to be capped at an affordable level for anyone in receipt of Pension Credit.

### **TV licences**

- Enact legislation to give financial help to over 75s who have lost their free TV licences.

### **For further information please contact:**

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