

National Pensioners Convention

The campaigning organisation for older people in the UK

Health & Wellbeing Manifesto

The purpose of this manifesto is to uphold the rights of older people in the context of ensuring equal access to all health and care services that maintain a quality of life and well-being. We call upon the government to undertake such actions as necessary in order to safeguard these rights.

As with other sections of society, we are not homogenous and therefore age alone does not define us as frail and/or vulnerable.



'Older people are individual citizens who deserve to be valued for their contribution to society. We deserve to be listened to, believed, respected and treated with dignity regardless of our characteristics on all issues related to access to, and provision of, services that enable a better quality of life, health and well-being.' National Pensioners Convention

Older people have the right to:

- Life and death in the same way as everyone else (World Health Organisation)
- Be valued as individual citizens who have contributed to society throughout their lifetime and are still holding families and communities together.
- Have complaints procedures in organisations providing health and care services which require full and fair investigation of their and their carer's complaints with appropriate accountability by staff and managers and redress, and without fear of reprisals.
- Be treated equally regardless of cultural, religious or other characteristics that make up the vibrant and eclectic population of older people.
- Be involved in, and consulted on, their health needs and the delivery of them, with the assistance of an advocate if necessary.
- Be afforded dignity and respect at all times, but particularly in end of life care.

Published by

‘Every pensioner has the right to choice dignity, independence and security as an integral and valued member of society’

Manifesto For The Rights of Older People’s Health & Wellbeing

The NPC believes that in order for the government to act on this manifesto, they must:

- Abolish means-testing and end the unfairness of funding for care
- Instate parity of mental and physical illnesses in order that everyone has equal access to provision
- Retain and maintain alternative routes to access alongside Digital First to ensure that the rights of older people to inclusion and information are upheld
- Consult with older people, their families, carers and health professionals on all things to do with their health and well-being
- Ensure that individual choice is at the heart of service provision and delivery

The NPC will campaign for:

- A National Care Service free at the point of need for everyone, funded by taxation, working alongside the NHS with its own independent monitoring unit
- A Commissioner for Older People in England, independent of the government with judicial powers backed up by legislation to protect older people

The World Health Organisation’s definition of health was drawn up in 1946 and came into force in April 1948.

It describes health as ‘a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.’

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