

Our agenda for the next Welsh Government

Age Cymru believes that every older person should be included and valued. We work locally, nationally and internationally to make that happen. Through campaigning, local support, advice and friendship, we're changing the way we age.

Estimates show that there will be over 1.3 million people aged 50 and over living in Wales by 2030.

We need to work to create a Wales that supports older people. Let's solve the crisis people don't see. Help us change older people's lives for the better in Wales.

Easier and more timely access to health services

Delays in health and care services can have a huge impact on older people and their families and deny them independence and quality of life.

We call on the next Welsh Government to:

- take a consistent approach to preventative health.
- take action to make sure that older people can get GP appointments when they need them.
- address NHS waiting times.
- ensure that older people are seen in a timely manner while waiting for an ambulance or in A&E.



Getting timely and quality social care for older people

Delays in help from social care services can strip older people of their dignity and independence and put unacceptable pressure on unpaid carers.

We call on the next Welsh Government to:

- make sure social care is funded so that older people can get the care they need at the right time and in the right place.
- commit to long-term resourcing of carers' support services so that older carers can have a good quality of life alongside caring.
- ensure that care services are available in the language of choice for older people.



Tackling pensioner poverty

Older people need to have financial security.

We call on the next Welsh Government to:

- increase investment in campaigns to encourage benefit uptake amongst older people.
- provide targeted support for older people in financial crisis.



Reliable and available transport services

Public and community transport services connect older people to social activities and services in their communities.

We ask the next Welsh Government to:

- deliver an integrated transport network that meets the needs of older people.
- serve communities by providing regular, reliable and accessible public transport links.
- co-produce transport links with communities, local authorities and transport providers so that older people can access communities, social activities and healthcare facilities.



Connecting people with their communities

Getting out and about to local shops, services and activities is important to living a healthy, active and sociable life.

We call on the next Welsh Government to:

- make sure communities across Wales are accessible and inclusive for all older people and compliant with the Equality Act 2010.
- ensure planning policy supports the development of age friendly communities.



Inclusive access to services and information

No-one should be left behind in the digital age.

We call on the next Welsh Government to:

- ensure equity of access to services and information both offline and online.
- protect and extend the vital role played by library services in facilitating digital inclusion and other important services for older people.
- normalise upskilling older people in digital skills and facilitate the provision of upskilling services across the economy.



Keeping warm at home

Staying warm is vital for a healthy, safe and comfortable later life, but many older people in Wales live in homes that are unbearably cold in winter and expensive to heat.

We call on the next Welsh Government to:

- increase investment in and access to schemes such as the Nest Warm Homes Programme.
- expand crisis support to ensure that older people are never left without functioning heating or hot water.
- strengthen safeguards against scams and rogue traders operating in the home energy sector.

