

Campaign!

The NPC's monthly bulletin for activists in the pensioners' movement

NPC launch election manifesto

Following a three month-long consultation, and after receiving thousands of responses from pensioners across the country, the NPC has drawn up its Pensioners' Manifesto for the 2015 General Election.

The manifesto will be officially launched at the Convention's Pensioners' Parliament taking place in Blackpool from 17-19 June.

Unsurprisingly, the top five concerns put forward surround the issues of pensions, care and universal benefits such as the bus pass and winter fuel allowance.

The was very strong support for improving the state pension, alongside the reintroduction of the Retail Price Index as a measure of inflation.

Maintaining all the universal pensioner

benefits and opposing means-testing was also high on the agenda, as was the need to improve the standards of care that older people receive and to create a new, tax-funded National Health and Care Service.

Dot Gibson, NPC general secretary said: "It is vital that prospective MPs understand the concerns of Britain's older voters, and if they want our support, they

must be prepared to back the policies that would improve the lives of millions of older people."

"As part of our campaigning we will also point out that younger and older people share many of the same concerns, and blaming one age group for the problems of another is dangerous and divisive."

Copies of the manifesto are available from the NPC office.

Pensioners' Manifesto 2015

Despite what some may claim, Britain's older generation are not to blame for the economic crisis. Neither does it help to suggest that there is a conflict between young and old, especially when the age groups share the same concerns over affordable housing, public transport, low incomes and retirement ages.

But growing older can be a real challenge. Britain's state pension is amongst the least adequate in the developed world, some of the stories surrounding the care of older people are absolutely shocking and last winter over 30,000 pensioners died from the cold.

A country can be said to be judged by the way it treats its young and older members. That is why we need a series of policies that improve the lives of Britain's 11m pensioners, as well as protecting future generations of older people.

At the General Election we will call on candidates to support a Pensioners' Manifesto that will put the concerns of older people at the heart of the political process.



- A basic state pension for all set above the poverty level of £175 a week
- Increases in pensions to be linked to the best of RPI, CPI, earnings or 2.5%
- Maintain universal pensioner benefits (bus pass, winter fuel allowance, free TV licences for the over 75s and free prescriptions) without means-testing
- A National Health and Care Service which is free at the point of use and funded through taxation
- A legally binding Dignity Code to improve the quality of care for older people



The NPC's Pensioners' Manifesto will be put before candidates in the run-up to the 2015 General Election © NPC

For more information about the NPC's policies visit www.npcuk.org or call 020-7383-0388



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Campaign Dates

NPC Pensioners' Parliament
17-19 June 2014,
Winter Gardens,
Blackpool. March,
rally, expert guest
speakers, sessions,
entertainment, ex-
hibition and much
more. Tickets
priced just £6.
Booking forms
available from the
NPC office

NPC Transport Conference
18 September, St
Pancras Church
Hall, London. De-
tails and booking
arrangements to
follow

UN Older People's Day
1 October: The NPC
will be organising
events across the
country to promote
the value of univer-
sal pensioner bene-
fits. Details to fol-
low

TUC London Demo
18 October: March
and rally against
the austerity
measures. Details
to follow

Rules on home care set to tighten further

Thousands of pensioners in England could lose access to care at home under new draft government guidelines, campaigners are warning.

The regulations, which are subject to consultation until August 15, set out the care needs someone must have in order to qualify for council-funded care.

The changes, which will be intro-

duced in April 2015, will see all local authorities in England use the same minimum guidelines for determining who should get care.

At the moment, local authorities fund care at one of four levels - low, moderate, substantial or critical, but the proposed criteria will be set at the substantial level.

The idea for tightening the criteria was first put forward by the

Dilnot Commission, and the changes would mean that those who struggle with dressing, washing, going to the toilet or preparing food would not qualify for any help - despite the fact that without it they may no longer be able to remain independent.

The NPC will continue to campaign for preventative care that supports all those who have a care need.

Support for NHS march

The NPC has given its backing to a group of young mothers from Darlington, who are hoping to highlight the dangers posed to the NHS from privatisation.

The People's March, which already has more than 500 participants signed up, will cover about 300-miles from Jarrow to Westminster in what organisers hope could be one of the biggest mobilisations of people across England in support of the NHS.

The group of working mums behind the protest say they have become disillusioned with the way the health service is being handled by the government.

The march will follow the route taken by the Jarrow Marchers who famously walked to Westminster during the 1930s depression to highlight the poverty in their North-East town.

More details can be found at www.999callforhns.org.uk.

Pensioners pay over £45bn a year in tax

New analysis of government data shows that the average pensioner household now pays out 30 per cent of its annual income in tax.

This amounts to £6400 a year from an average income of £21,300 and is made up of a combination of direct and indirect taxes.

In total, the pensioner population pays a total of £45.6bn in tax per year.

Of the 30 per cent of its annual income that the average retired household pays in tax, just under three fifths (£3,800) is in indirect taxation.

As such, retired households with lower incomes are likely to find themselves paying out a greater proportion of their incomes in tax than those with greater wealth.

Whilst VAT and income tax are the largest duties that older people have

to pay - each consuming eight per cent of the average retired household's annual income - council tax also accounts for around four per cent.

Indirect taxes other than VAT, including vehicle excise duty, taxes on alcohol, tobacco and petrol, combine to take a further 10 per cent.

Ron Douglas, NPC president said: "We're still making a contribution to society."

You can now keep up to date with all the NPC's activities by following us on Twitter @NPCUK.