

Age Action Alliance

together improving older people's lives

Our vision: The Age Action Alliance is informed and driven by older people themselves. We share the vision of improving older people's lives; creating neighbourhoods where all older people are secure, valued and able to make a contribution to their local communities and wider society.

What is the Alliance?

The Age Action Alliance is a partnership of organisations from civil society and the public and private sectors, which celebrates the lives of older people and their contribution to society. We work together and use our diverse skills to particularly improve the lives of the most disadvantaged older people and prevent deprivation in later life. We tackle issues by pooling expertise, sharing resources, communicating ideas and championing new ways of working to make a real difference to people's lives, enabling older people to act for themselves where they can or providing support where they can't.

Our focus on the most disadvantaged older people includes people whose enjoyment of later life is, or may be, hampered by financial issues, physical frailty, poor mental health, lack of opportunities, poor mobility, transport and housing problems and fear of crime.

Why now?

People in the UK are living longer than ever before. Over the last century, average life expectancy has increased by thirty years and will continue to increase. Fifty years ago one child in ten could expect to live to be 100, today it is one in four. In the UK there are now more people over State Pension age than children under 16. An ageing society isn't coming tomorrow – it is with us today.

Our ageing society is a changing society and presents real opportunities, but also raises challenges. It is more important than ever to recognise the needs and aspirations of increasing numbers of older people, and to find new ways of working to meet them. It is vital that all sections of society listen to and address the needs of today's older people, and prepare for the future.

Too many of today's older people find themselves in unsuitable housing, facing deprivation, isolation and exclusion.

In the UK, 3.1 million people aged over 65 say that they go longer than a week without seeing a friend, neighbour or family member. There are many examples of good local services and we want to build on them. However, too often, services and support that could help are delivered by separate organisations, treating the symptoms but not the person. We want to change this.

What is the Alliance setting out to achieve?

Our vision to improve older people's lives will ensure that older people, today and tomorrow:

- Are visible, valued and heard.
- Can make informed choices about health and wellbeing.
- Live in safe, warm homes.
- Have a strong network of friends, family or support in our communities.
- Are able to access information and services they need - including those available on the internet.
- Live in places where their needs are met.

How will the Alliance work?

Our work together will be based on the following commitments:

- Engaging older people to find out what is important to them, then acting on it.
- Working as partners on issues when it adds value, or when problems cannot be resolved by working in isolation.
- Building on what already works well.
- Supporting organisations to develop realistic and measurable goals, and showing the difference we are making to older people's lives.