



SCOTTISH ELECTION MANIFESTO 2021

CAMPAIGNING FOR A BETTER DEAL FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND SINCE 1992

What we at the Scottish Pensioners' Forum hope to secure is a fairer society, based on social justice and equality for all. Many marginalised groups have been disproportionately impacted by Covid 19 and this has only served to highlight the many inequalities older people face on a daily basis. As such, this Scottish election must be used to campaign for and to demand the following:-

PENSIONS AND WELFARE

- An immediate increase to the Basic State Pension to at least £220 per week.
- Ensuring the triple lock system remains the measure on which pensions increases are based.
- That all pensioners receive the same level of state pension and that no existing pensioners are penalised under the recent changes to the pension system.
- The abolition of means testing and the provision to ALL pensioners of a living pension above the UK's own official poverty level.
- Pensions justice for women pensioners and support for the WASPI campaign
- Ease of access to the application process for age related benefits and entitlements with a range of application options being made available.
- The prevention of further closures of defined benefit schemes.
- The protection of public sector pension schemes.
- An immediate increase to the winter fuel allowance in order to eradicate fuel poverty.
- The reinstatement of the free TV licence for all over 75's and not just those in receipt of pension credit.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

- A targeted and focused approach to eradicate inequalities faced by older people must be included in any post pandemic recovery plan, both nationally and at local government level.
- The introduction of a publicly funded National Care Service.
- That care packages for older people are based on a person-centred approach, sensitive to individual needs, and not delivered on a standardised basis.
- Older people have the right to access health care which improves their quality of life and should be supported to do this.
- Older people have the right to be actively involved in all decisions made in relation to their overall health and wellbeing.
- There be no barriers to accessing healthy and nutritious food for older people.
- Food suppliers and manufacturers should be encouraged to provide products in smaller quantities.
- An end to ageism and age discrimination with the abuse and neglect of older people being prioritised in any post pandemic recovery plan, both nationally and at local government level.
- The continued contribution of carers, both paid and unpaid, must be recognised so that they do not face financial hardship as a consequence of their caring responsibilities.
- Prioritising actions to tackle social isolation and loneliness at both community and national level.

TRAVEL

- A properly designed and adequately funded public transport system.
- The Concessionary Travel Scheme to be extended, and made valid, throughout Scotland and to include rail and ferry travel.
- Additional funding designed to improve accessibility to transport for older and disabled people and their carers.

DIGITAL EXCLUSION

- Improvements in learning and support to end digital exclusion for older people.
- Improve accessibility to digital services in public buildings and for organisations working closely with older people.

PARTICIPATION

- An end to the undermining of communities with the introduction of more community empowerment initiatives that place a duty on statutory authorities to comply.
- Recognise that older people have the right to participate in bodies, which deal with their concerns at all levels of governance, and to have their views taken into account.
- Respect for an individual's preferences, routines, customs, faith, cultural differences, disability, sexual orientation, and all other needs appertaining to their sense of self.

HOUSING

- The building of accessible social housing to meet the needs of older people as they age.

ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY

- Encouraging the proper recycling of waste, bearing in mind the accessibility problems often associated with older people.
- The provision of affordable energy schemes, via social tariffs, from all energy suppliers.
- The safeguarding of essential public services which many older people rely heavily upon.
- That the Scottish Government resolves to work with others in mitigating climate change and to support those who seek to prevent further damage to our planet.

SCOTLAND'S BLOCK GRANT FROM WESTMINSTER

- The maintenance of the current agreement under the Barnett formula.
- Defend the NHS and protect its current publicly funded model.
- Prevent public service cuts and provide more help for carers.
- Oppose TTIP and other similar trade agreements.

