

Campaign!

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

Every £1 on bus pass generates £2.87

New research from Greener Journeys has revealed that every £1 spent on concessionary travel generates at least £2.87 in benefits to bus users and the wider economy.

The report entitled *Bus 2020* shows that the bus pass enables older people to take part in activities that would otherwise be unaffordable, they make a contribution through volunteering and caring, and they benefit from being more physically active.

They also spend money in the local economy and reduce the amount

of car usage.

Tackling loneliness and isolation also reduces the demand for social services.

Speaking at a recent NPC transport conference, Greener Journey's Chief Executive, Claire Haigh said: "The next government must make a firm commitment to concessionary travel schemes and provide them with the funds they need."

"This will build a stronger economy, a cleaner environment and a society in which everyone can take part."

For more information visit: greenerjourneys.com.



The bus pass and other universal pensioner benefits enable older people to continue to make a valuable contribution to our society © NPC

NPC calls lobby of Parliament on 5/11

Campaigners are being urged to take part in what is likely to be the last NPC lobby of Parliament before the general election.

The lobby will take place on November 5 and will focus on promoting the NPC's Pensioners' Manifesto and the five key demands covering the level of the

state pension, indexation, the protection of universal benefits, the need for a National Health and Care Service and protection against abuse in hospital, a nursing home or one's own home.

Supporters will assemble at 12 noon opposite the House of Lords in Old Palace Yard (by George V's statue) be-

fore going into Committee Room 14 in the House of Commons, at 1pm for a rally.

Representatives of the three main parties have been invited to speak, but as yet, no-one has agreed.

Ron Douglas, NPC president said: "Older people will want to know what the political parties are going to offer."

DGL Department of Government Lies

"The Government believes that people deserve dignity and respect in old age and that they should be provided with the support they need"

(The Coalition: Our Programme for Government, May 2010)

"The £140 flat-rate state pension will not apply to existing pensioners"

(Budget March 2011)

PENSIONERS CAN'T TRUST THE GOVT **NPC**
NATIONAL PENSIONERS' CONVENTION



National Pensioners Convention

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Campaign Dates

Older People's Day
1 October: The NPC will be organising events across the country to promote the value of universal pensioner benefits. Find out if there is an event taking place near you by visiting the NPC website.

NPC Lobby

5 November: The NPC is staging a lobby of Parliament to promote its Pensioners' Manifesto. Demo at 12noon by George V statue (opp House of Lords), followed by meeting in Committee Rm 14 1-3pm. MPs from main parties invited.

Dignity Action Day

30 January: The NPC will be co-ordinating a UK-wide day of action aimed at highlighting the need for the Dignity Code to be enshrined in law to protect older people from abuse. More details to follow.

King's Fund report supports tax for care

Influential health think-tank, the King's Fund has called for a radical shake up of the way in which social care is funded.

Whilst some of the recommendations call for NHS continuing care, the winter fuel allowance and free TV licences to be means-tested, the most significant part of the plan is the idea that National Insurance should go up by 1% for those

employees aged 40 and over. Whilst the charity doesn't recommend it, they also mention that the same could also be done for employers as well.

This is the first time that any major organisation, apart from the NPC and some trade unions, has called for taxation to increase as a way of funding our social care system.

Dot Gibson, NPC general secretary

said: "Of course there are parts of the King's Fund report that the NPC would oppose, but the call for more taxation to pay for improved social care services marks a shift in thinking that should be welcomed."

"There is no other way of tackling the deep crisis that exists in the care sector, and the sooner that politicians recognise this, the better."

Stop loan sharks targetting pensioners

The England Illegal Money Lending Team are running a new campaign to alert older consumers to the perils of using loan sharks.

Officers from the team work in communities supporting victims, raising awareness, organising community events and initiatives and working with various partnership agencies

including housing associations, credit unions, the CAB, police and debt advice services to ensure front line staff know how to spot an illegal lender in order to help their clients.

Most of the awareness raising is funded using proceeds of crime money taken from convicted loan sharks.

There is a 24/7 confidential hot-

line for people to report illegal lending to trained investigators on 0300 555 2222.

People can also email reportaloanshark@toploansharks.gov.uk.

Peter Rayner, NPC vice president said: "Older people need greater protection from financial abuse from loan sharks and other criminals."

CETA, TTIP and the NHS

Health campaigners, trade unionists and environmental activists are all concerned that international trade deals (with Canada known as CETA) and with America (known as TTIP) might have a far reaching effect on the NHS and other services.

The concern is that such deals will give foreign companies leeway to sue a future UK government for returning privatised or contracted-out

health services to direct public provision.

As a result, campaigners are calling for the NHS to be excluded from any deal.

There is also a concern that in the course of harmonisation between countries; workers' rights, environmental standards and food safety rules will also be downgraded or weakened.

Supporters are asked to raise these concerns with their MPs.

For further information visit <http://stopttip.net/>.

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



For advice call the hotline 0300 555 2222