

COUNCIL MEETING – 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

ALTERATION TO MOTION

Motion 2: Age Friendly Islington

Moved by Cllr Janet Burgess

Seconded by Cllr Rosaline Ogunro

This Council notes:

- Islington is the 53rd most deprived local authority in England and the 6th most deprived in London. In 2020, 4415 (20%) of older residents lived in the most deprived areas of the borough, as this proportion was significantly higher when compared to younger adults.
- Islington also has the 4th highest levels of poverty affecting older people in London. As well as income deprivation, Islington's older people reported social isolation as a persistent challenge.
- In 2022, Islington had approximately 208,000 adult residents, of which 22,948 were older adults, aged 65 or above (11%). Islington has a significantly lower older population when compared to London (16%) and England (23%).
- Our older population aged 65+ is projected to grow most quickly (16% by 2026 and 35% by 2032), which equates to a growth of around 7,798 individuals over the next 10 years.
- Many factors can impact how we age. This includes:
 - Wider determinants – these are a diverse range of social, economic and environmental factors which impact on people's health.
 - Healthy living – taking care of one's physical health, including eating nutritious foods, limiting alcohol intake, and smoking cessation.
 - Common conditions – conditions including physical or mental health and wellbeing, cognitive functioning and falls and fractures.
- Our ageing population is a primary driver of adult social care demand. Of the 22,948 older adults in Islington, 2,720 (11%) receive support from Adult Social Care. The majority of residents receiving support are older adults (53%).

- Of the 2,720 older people we support, 55% (1,494) received long-term support from the Council. Physical support, which includes access and mobility, and personal care support, was the most common primary support reason for older adults.
- The residents we support in Adult Social Care are significantly more likely to live in more deprived areas. 21% of the older residents we support live in the most deprived areas of Islington.
- The Government has continually failed to properly fund social care across the UK, leaving it to local authorities, despite austerity, to manage increasing demand and costs.
- State pensions are set for an 8.5 percent increase in April 2024 under the triple lock mechanism, with the new state pension set to rise just over £900 per year to over £11,500.
- The UK has one of the lowest rates of state pension in Europe and the decline of Defined Benefit workplace pension schemes means that the average UK pensioner has less to live on in retirement than in most other countries.
- As outlined in the [Institute for Fiscal Studies \(IFS\) report](#) on the case for a pensions review, there are a number of key challenges facing future generations of pensioners that threaten their living standards in retirement, and which, without policy action, mean many people are likely to face substantial financial difficulties in older age.

This Council further notes:

- Islington is committed to supporting older people to live healthy, purposeful, independent, connected and fulfilling lives. The Council commissions, funds and provides a range of provisions for older people in the borough, across health (including adult social care), housing, environment, transport, digital/assistive technology, and the community voluntary sector.
- The Council's Public Health team are currently running the 'Get Active' pilot to support those with long term conditions to become more motivated and confident in relation to engaging in physical activity. This links to our broader strategic ambition to increase uptake of physical activity as outlined in the [Active Together Strategy](#).
- Our collaborative work with Camden on [Parks for Health](#) which invests in our park spaces to improve the quality and accessibility of green spaces with a particular focus on improving wellbeing and supporting older age groups to be active and stay socially connected.

- Islington provides free swimming to Over 60's 7 days per week across our pools, we also have introduced Free Swimming Lessons for Over 60's.
- LBI has joint arrangements with the NHS – Whittington Health, Camden and Islington Foundation Trust (CIFT) and Islington ~~Clinical Commissioning Group (ICCG)~~ Integrated Care Board (ICB) to support people's health and social care needs. In addition to all regular health services, such as primary care, mental health, community health and acute care, Islington has some specialist services to support older adults, including community activities and mental health support.
- Our People Friendly Streets initiative continues to improve the accessibility of the local built environment/public realm to improve accessibility and make public spaces more attractive to support active travel uptake for everyone, including older people in the borough.
- Islington is recognised by Alzheimer's Society as a community working towards becoming dementia friendly.
- In February 2023, Islington's Ecology Centre at Gillespie Park was recognised as being a dementia-friendly venue. At both the Ecology Centre and Caledonian Park, Islington Council has been running Health and Nature Walks which are open to all, but particularly focused on older people and are dementia friendly. Further partnership work is ongoing with Age UK, for example holding "Park Cuppa" events regularly at Caledonian Park and the Ecology Centre.
- The Freedom Pass scheme provides free travel on most of London's public transport to older and eligible disabled London residents. In 2018/19, LBI contributed £11.5m to the Scheme and 23,000 Older People in Islington benefitted from Freedom Passes.
- Islington's Dementia Strategy will outline the offer across the partnership for dementia prevention, diagnosis, post diagnostic care, living well with dementia and choice and control including at end of life. A Dementia Coordinator will be created to co-ordinate the implementation of the dementia strategy action plan.
- Islington's Carers Strategy has been jointly developed with Age UK Islington who runs Islington Carers Hub. It has been coproduced with carers – 350 carers have contributed through engagement activities and a carers reference group has been utilised to coproduce the strategy.
- Islington works with local organisations and through specific programmes to reduce the impact of fuel poverty. Examples of local initiatives include the Bunhill Energy Centre and district-wide heat network, Warm Healthy Homes Programme, Seasonal Health Interventions Network (SHINE) and Angelic Energy.
- Adult Care Commissioned Services provided for older people in the borough that include Resident and Nursing Care Homes which meet the needs of residents who cannot remain in their own homes or in other accommodation-

based services; specialist Housing (Extra Care) designed to meet the needs of older people with long-term conditions, and disabled people who may struggle to remain in their own home; Home Care covering a range of activities such as personal care, reablement, and support with medication; Islington Carers Hub; and Day Provision New Park Day Centre.

This Council resolves to:

- Join the UK Network of Age-friendly communities, recognising ourselves as an age-friendly borough, where Islington is a welcoming place to grow old in.
- Retain the Older Person's Council Tax discount first introduced by Islington in 2010.
- Write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for better regulation of private pensions.
- Work with local businesses to encourage them to accept cash transactions, recognising the freedom, independence, and social inclusion that this provides older people in the borough.
- Continue working with our VCS community and other stakeholders to work on reducing digital exclusion in Islington.