

Older People

DAVY JONES STANDS FOR:

Older people deserve a decent quality of life

Every person, young or old should be entitled to basic material security. Older people have worked their whole life and contributed generously to taxation and national insurance: they are not a burden on society. They pay around £45 billion in tax every year. And increasingly, older people provide unpaid childcare for their grandchildren to allow parents to work, and make up an army of volunteers essential to many services.

Older people merit a reasonable pension

The state pension in Britain is one of the lowest in the developed world compared to the average wage. One in six older people in our country are classified as poor, significantly worse than the European average. Income inequality not only affects material comfort, it also influences the whole of your life. For example, in Brighton and Hove, men living in the least deprived areas live nearly nine years longer than those in the most deprived. We support a Citizens Pension to be set at a level above the official poverty line. At the moment, that would be well over £200 per week.

No to “means testing” of pensioners benefits

Some benefits are about more than individual needs. We believe that pensioners should continue to receive benefits such as bus passes, free prescriptions and eye tests, free TV licences for the over-75s, and winter fuel allowances. They should not be “means tested” while the state pension remains so miserable.

Free social care and a healthy old age

We believe social care at home should be free at the point of need, like the NHS, and funded through general taxation, just as it is in Scotland. Older people should not have to sell their houses to pay for care. We support a binding Dignity Code to improve the quality and standards of care for older people. Activities such as open activity days and free sports passes are very important to enable older people to stay active and healthy.

Dignity and respect for older people

The media often portray older people as the only group to benefit from the recession. This is untrue and divisive. Many older people's lives are limited by discrimination in the form of ageism. Older people demand and deserve dignity and respect, not abuse.

Read more at: policy.greenparty.org.uk