

Summary of key later life issues

- **Ageism and discrimination**

Ageist attitudes based on misunderstanding about the value and contribution of older people and perpetuated in the media must be challenged. Negative attitudes and behaviour cause real harm.

- **Employment and the older workforce**

Employing older workers brings tangible economic benefits to the country, to employers and to the workforce as a whole. Negative attitudes to older workers is a major barrier to be overcome

- **Health and care**

Most older people are fit and healthy and do not require health and care. People should be assisted to keep on contributing to their communities and remain independent as long as possible. However, when services are needed they should be personalised, safe and of a high quality. People should always be treated with dignity and respect

- **Housing and support**

Appropriate, well maintained housing is very important to ensuring continued independence, health and quality of life. New models for long term care are needed

- **Finance in later life**

Too many older people face financial hardship and measures must be taken to ensure an adequate income for all. In a world where energy costs in particular have risen steeply, pensions and benefit payments need to keep pace with inflation. While there is concern about universal benefits being paid to people who don't need them, the cost of doing this is outweighed by the guarantee that the benefits reach those who do need them.

Organisations need to be more age friendly in their dealings with older people who may struggle with complex tariff systems, paperless billing and on-line banking.

- **Social isolation**

Social isolation is a key factor in limiting good health and well-being. SEEFA believes that national and local government should be concerned with supporting community initiatives, such as good neighbour schemes, that ensure that people do not become isolated.

- **Engagement and older people as individuals**

All older people including those from minority ethnic groups, LGTB, people with specific health needs and disabilities etc should be treated as individuals. Measures should be taken to engage properly when planning services, to listen to older people at the point of delivery of services and to seek and act on feedback.