

North East Pensioners Association

Regional impact report on issues affecting pensioners wellbeing in July 2020 including the following:

1. Care Homes & Housing, 2. Economy, 3. Health & Welfare, 4. NHS, 5. Politics, 6. Poverty 7. Security and 8. Transport.

NEPA
Security with Dignity

1. CARE HOMES & HOUSING

DHSC updated care home visiting guidance. The guidance states that care homes should ensure all residents and their families are aware of visiting policies – The Alzheimer's Society say ask your care home for their policy.

Their policy should consider the following:

- The importance of consulting advocates for residents and their loved ones in decisions on care
- Whether residents' needs make visits particularly crucial. For example, for people with dementia, restricting visitors can cause distress, which should be mitigated as far as possible
- Whether visitors provide care that staff cannot replicate, or if visitors are included in a person's care plan. If so, the policy should reference what can be done to facilitate this care with use of PPE
- Whether any cultural or religious needs have been identified in order to better support residents
- If further periods of lockdown arise, what alternative options will the care home put in place to maintain social contact, and to ensure personalised updates are provided to loved ones .



New care cost analysis from Age UK. This found that every day, 14 people exhaust their assets paying for care. This finding is published a year on from the Prime Ministers statement on the steps of No 10 that he would fix social care and ensure no one in future would have to sell their home to fund help they cannot live without.

Concerns - September Government planning law changes. The Northumberland council opposition say this means local councils and people will no longer have a say in these decisions. "Planning processes were originally brought in by central Government to ensure that local people could have their say and lodge their objections," it said. "Effectively this has been taken away at a stroke" ([Chronicle](#)).



2. ECONOMY

Next opens expanded store in Bridges Shopping centre Sunderland. An empty retail unit adjoining the original shop has been taken over and has a larger children's wear section. S further expansion is planned for opening in a few weeks ([S. Echo](#)).



Don't rule out a wealth tax. Although instinctively wary of "negative impacts" from such levies, Phillip Hammond said the heavy cost of shoring up the economy during the pandemic would require higher taxes once a recovery takes hold. "I wouldn't rule it out," he said of a wealth tax"([S.Times](#)). His personal worth is estimated at £9m. All in it together; again?

New Business. CoreHaus based in Newton Aycliffe is planning the creation of a new site to develop and build modular homes. Dozens of skilled jobs will be advertised initially with further employment opportunities available over the next five years ([N.Echo](#)).

Nissan Pension Scheme Dispute. The company, which employs around 6,000 staff on Wearside, has confirmed it is entering into consultations over closing its final salary pension scheme. Around 1,500 workers at the plant would be affected if proposals to move them on to an alternative pension plan are approved ([N.Echo](#)).

Work starts on major flood defence scheme. This to help protect hundreds of Teeside homes and businesses. Middlesbrough is set to benefit from estimated £59m of economic benefits from the flood alleviation scheme ([Teessidelive](#)).

3.HEALTH & WELFARE.

The National Pensioners' Convention has called for a new settlement for Care Services, moving forward from the pandemic. It seeks the establishment of a National Care Service on the same footing as the NHS, based on need, funded by taxation and NI, with an end to means testing. Full details are in the booklet "**Goodbye Cinderella**". Please use the attached order form below.



Goodbye Cinderella

A New Settlement For Care Services

Moving Forward from the Pandemic

Marchmont Community Centre,
62 Marchmont Street,
London, WCC1N 1AB
Tel: 0207 838 7722
www.npcuk.org



"The set of recommendations for reform set out by the NPC in this report and supported by well referenced arguments and data are a fantastic road map for the future which I wish politicians and public alike would get behind.

"Let us move towards a national care service with national standards of care and registration for staff, tax funded, working with the NHS, with the capacity to provide services to all those with needs and fully integrated with housing and preventative services."

Professor David Oliver

"GOODBYE CINDERELLA" ORDER FORM

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

No. of copies required:.....

Cost: 1 booklet £2 plus p&p (£0.75)
5 booklets £8 plus p&p (£1.75)

Please make cheques payable to NPC and return to:
NPC, Marchmont Community Centre,
62 Marchmont Street, London, WC1N 1AB

T: 020-7837-6622 E: info@npcuk.org
W: www.npcuk.org



Care Campaign for the vulnerable. It supports the National Pensioners Convention with a clear and concise review of Goodbye Cinderella and call for cross party talks and a national debate now.

84,000 North East Smokers quit since Covid. An analysis by ASH and UCL finds that over a million people in the UK have stopped smoking since the pandemic began. The quit rate in the North East is 20%, by far the highest in the UK ([Fresh](#)).

Asthma drug could serve to treat Alzheimer's disease. A Lancaster University laboratory study has found that the asthma drug salbutamol prevents the formation of tangles of fibrous protein that are a hallmark of Alzheimer's disease. The next step will be to test the drug in animal models of the disease ([MedicalNewsToday](#)). Its early days and further work is underway.



Jack Charlton. Our deepest condolences to family, friends and fans for their sad loss. He won the world cup with England and went back with Ireland.



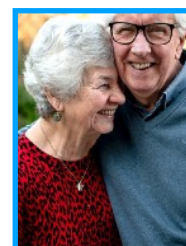
Five Ways to Wellbeing. The NHS Northern Cancer Alliance and Public Health South Tees have published a useful pamphlet to help us all stay healthy this summer. As well as outlining 5 ways to wellbeing in these difficult times when most of us are spending more time at home, this has tips to help us sleep better and advice for staying well.



Keeping Well at Home with Gateshead Older People's Assembly Videos. They've had 100,000 viewers on local TV North East Live so far but all sessions are on YouTube. Give it ago by clicking here. See also their website for further details of live courses.

Carers - Independent Age Guide. If you're looking after someone regularly because they're ill, disabled or can't manage without your support, you may be a carer. This guide explains your rights and the benefits, services and support that may be available to help you look after someone else (also in audio and free). It covers:

- What it means to be a carer
- Caring for someone with dementia
- Getting a carer's assessment
- Practical support
- Financial support
- Taking care of yourself
- When your caring role ends.



4. THE NHS

Covid-19 infection rates remain low across the North East. 3 local authorities saw a decline in the infection rate. Newcastle and Gateshead, which previously had the joint highest rates in the region with 4 cases per 100,000 people, have now dropped to 0.7 and 1.5 respectively. Sunderland also saw a decrease – from 2.9 to 0.4. Northumberland's rate remained the same over both weeks, at 1.9 (figs for the 7 days to 24 July 2020 - Chronicle).

North East Ambulance crews under attack. This is crazy we have had 7 attacks on crews in July. MP's are calling for increased penalties. The ambulance service are now to prosecute offenders. North Tyneside Court gave a man 18 weeks for spitting at paramedics (Chronicle).

Be kind to yourself. Whilst being kind to others during this difficult time, we need to ensure that we are also being kind to ourselves. Below are some links to what we hope will be helpful information on how to care for your own health and wellbeing:

- Every Mind Matters, please click here.
- Mind, please click here.
- Age UK please click here.
- Mental Health Foundation please click here.
- Alcohol consumption during the lockdown, some tips and advice here.



Northumberland Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust - one of the best. They have been rated the best in the North East in the CQC inpatient survey (News Post Leader).

Northumberland Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust - £8m sterilisation unit. The Cramlington unit will be completed early 2021 (N/land. Gazette).

5. POLITICS



Patients are being told they cannot order repeat prescription by phone from 1 September. This as Government backs digital system, which Age UK warns could lead to older people becoming "seriously unwell" ([The I Newspaper](#)). This is not the time to put millions of old and disabled people who have no access to the net at risk.

UK "may see long periods of tax rises". This according to the conclusions at section 5 of the [report](#) by the Institute for Fiscal Studies ([Chronicle](#)).

6. POVERTY

North East could be facing a Covid-19 'triple whammy'. Speaking in her role as chair of the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) Inclusive Economy Board, the Right Rev. Christine Hardman said the region had been one of the worst hit by coronavirus due to having a large number of elderly people, high job losses, and many vulnerable children ([NTCA Board](#) with video).

7. SECURITY

New Police Recruits. The Chief Constable and Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner welcomed 52 student officers in July, bringing the total of new starters since lockdown was announced on March 23 to 217 ([N/Land Gazette](#)).



Jarrow pensioner targeted at home by knife man. The 32 year old burglar has been jailed for 9 years after pleading guilty to 2 counts of robbery and 6 counts of shoplifting. Detective Constable Alison Hayhoe said, "His selfish actions have inevitably caused a significant amount of distress for his victims, one of whom was in her 70s and was left absolutely terrified as a result ([Northumbria Police](#)).

8. TRANSPORT



Carrot or is it stick? The government has made clear that powers over rail and bus services will only be handed over if councils either side of the Tyne can mend a split that saw three of them break away in 2018. It also seems the North East may not get a share of a £4.2 billion transport funding pot for metro mayors unless council leaders revive hopes of a region-wide devolution deal ([Chronicle](#)).

Road works speed raised to 60mph. Highways England says raising the limit from the usual 50mph comes after "extensive research and trials". Limits will not necessarily be increased at every set of roadworks. Depending on the road layout and the work being done, 40mph and 50mph restrictions will continue to be used in places ([BBC](#)).



Trevor Gauntlett. Our NEPA Chair for 12 years has stepped down due to poor health. He worked all over the country until retirement as an Inspector of Taxes. He was active within the Inland Revenue Staff Federation. He joined the IRSF retired members and went on to take a seat on the National Committee of the PCS. In NEPA he helped steer us through some troubled times. Despite his poor health he would make every effort to make our monthly meetings from Washington. We thank Trevor for all his input, his friendship and wish him and his wife Pat all the best for the future.

Sean Fahey
NEPA Secretary

The NEPA Website can be accessed by [clicking here](#) or google "**NEPA Pensioners**"
(Please note that underlined script in this document serve as links to web pages).