



Manifesto for the upcoming general election 2024

Dear Candidate

We at the Southwark Pensioners Action Group, who have been campaigning for the rights and needs of older people for over 30 years, want to hear from you before the election on 4th July. **Will you pledge to campaign for the following things outlined below.**

We will work with you at ensuring the things below are fought for.

Social care

Create an NHS style free at the point of use. A fully state funded high-quality system of social care as advocated for by [end social care disgrace](#). In the meantime, commit to greater local authority monitoring to ensure consistent care quality and begin to bring social care back in house as part of a transition to a free at the point of access service.

Health

[Keep our NHS public](#) and improve transparency and accountability in health services. Increase funding of and investment in our health service in line with those suggested by Keep our NHS public and minimise outsourcing and maximise insourcing. Ensure that NHS resources are accessed locally to integrate and improve social and health care and in consultation with local people. Commit to improving pay and conditions and reducing staff shortages in NHS and social care.

Mental Health

Campaign for 24/7 emergency mental health provision at the Maudsley. Recognise specific needs of and increase provision older people's mental health services and commit to ensuring everyone has access to the [building blocks of good mental wellbeing](#) as outlined by the mental health foundation.

Housing

Acknowledge and end the housing emergency. Create more lifetime council housing and refurbish and maintain the existing stock to an acceptable and safe standard. Ensure there is a range of housing options for older people, including accessible and sheltered housing and housing which can enable downsizing. Strengthen Council regulation of landlords and private sector housing to improve standards of property and increase rights and security of tenants. Insulate and retrofit [draughty homes to protect the environment](#), reduce energy bills and improve the housing stock.

Living incomes

Commit to providing everyone especially older people with adequate incomes to have a good quality of life. This includes raising benefits to the level set by [The Joseph Rowntree Foundation in order to guarantee everyone's access to essentials](#), keeping the triple lock and committing to '[make no further rises in State Pension age unless life expectancy is increasing, inequalities are reducing, and a system of financial support is in place for those who find it difficult or impossible to work up until their State Pension age.](#)'

Transport

Bring transport into public ownership and create an integrated system, which is affordable and accessible. Engage with older and disabled people and adopt the [Transport for All Equal Pavements Pledge](#) by removing clutter and rubbish, dropping kerbs and protecting Blue Badge bays. Make sustainable travel more accessible for all, clean our air and protect our health by boosting public transport and active travel provision.

Climate change

Introduce, develop and Implement action plans which effectively respond to the climate emergency challenges, including [committing to powering the UK with green home-grown energy](#) and to reaching net zero.

Older Person Commissioner

Create an independent older people's commissioner in England to give older people a voice and ensure older people's needs are considered in politics. This role would '[champion the rights of older people and ensure policymaking considers the needs of England's ageing population](#)'.

Digital exclusion

Alongside the National Pensioners Conference (NPC) we are calling on all candidates to commit end digital exclusion and to '[ensure equitable and affordable access to information and services; maintain local access to cash.](#)'

Sources

[A Manifesto for Older People \(npcuk.org\)](#)

<https://ageing-better.org.uk/commissioner-older-people-ageing>

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/policy-and-advocacy/general-election-2024-our-policy-calls#paragraph-50656>

<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/resources/manifesto-recommendations/>

<https://www.transportforall.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Equal-Pavements-Pledge-full-A4-WITH-LOGOS.pdf>

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/social-security/guarantee-our-essentials-reforming-universal-credit-to-ensure-we-can-all-afford-the>

[https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/campaigns/ge-](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/campaigns/ge-202425/general_election_manifesto_2425.pdf)

[202425/general election manifesto 2425.pdf](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/campaigns/ge-202425/general_election_manifesto_2425.pdf)

<https://keepournhspublic.com/>

<https://endsocialcaredisgrace.org/our-seven-demands/>