

Age Connects Wales Manifesto

**Celebrating Older Age:
Our top asks for the Sixth Senedd**



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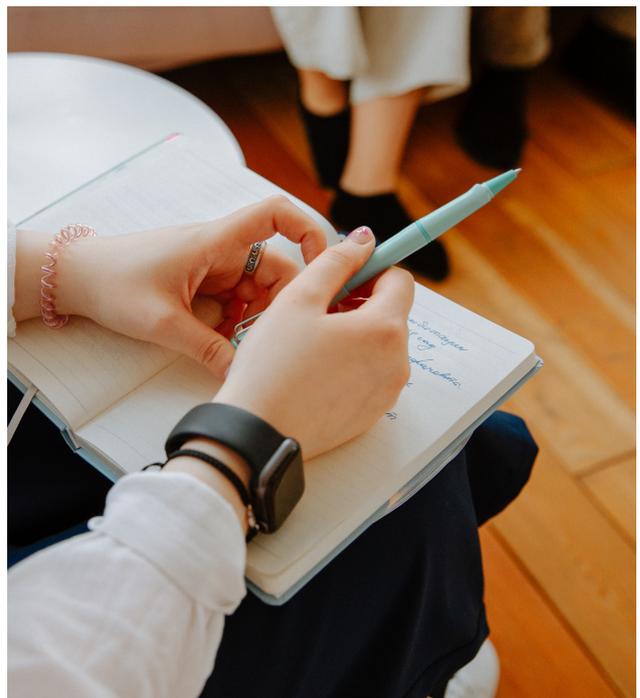
01

Decision-making



Older people should have access to free, independent information and advice (including welfare benefits) to help them make their own decisions, be involved in decision-making around the challenges and opportunities associated with ageing. This should also include access to independent advocacy services, both at community/citizen level and professional levels.

We implore the next Welsh Government to strengthen legislation to formalise the right to obtain independent advocacy services, as well as to provide the third sector with increased, long-term and ring-fenced funding to provide services for older people.



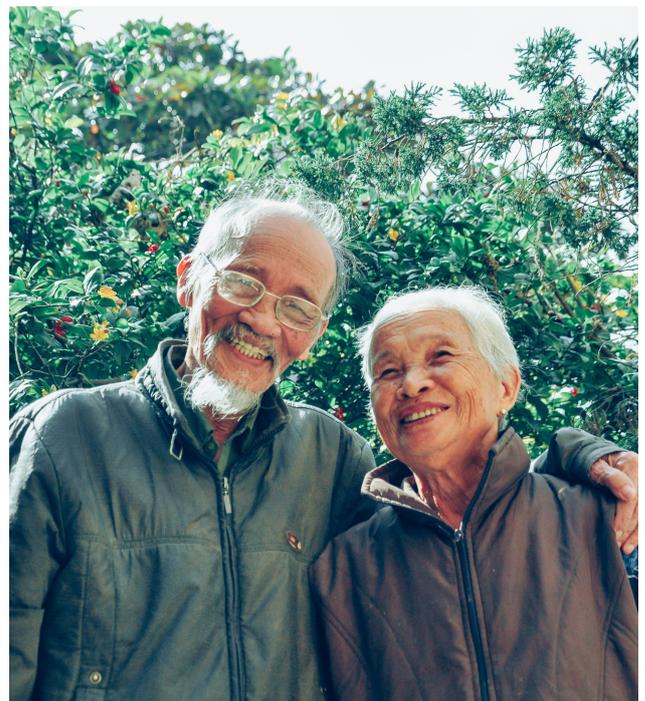
02

Wellbeing & independence



Older people should have the tools and support to maximise independence, feel supported in their community and increased access to and knowledge of physical activity/exercise, nutrition and lifestyle choices.

We call on the next Welsh Government to emphasise the need for the public, private and third sector to recognise the crucial importance of human social contact with older people, and to make investments in alternatives to digital support.



03

Housing



Older people should have access to appropriate, affordable and accessible housing and housing support that meets their immediate and ongoing needs and aspirations.

We urge the next Welsh Government to ensure appropriate funding is available to support organisations helping older people remain in their own homes for as long as possible including financial support for heating, home adaptations and respite for carers.

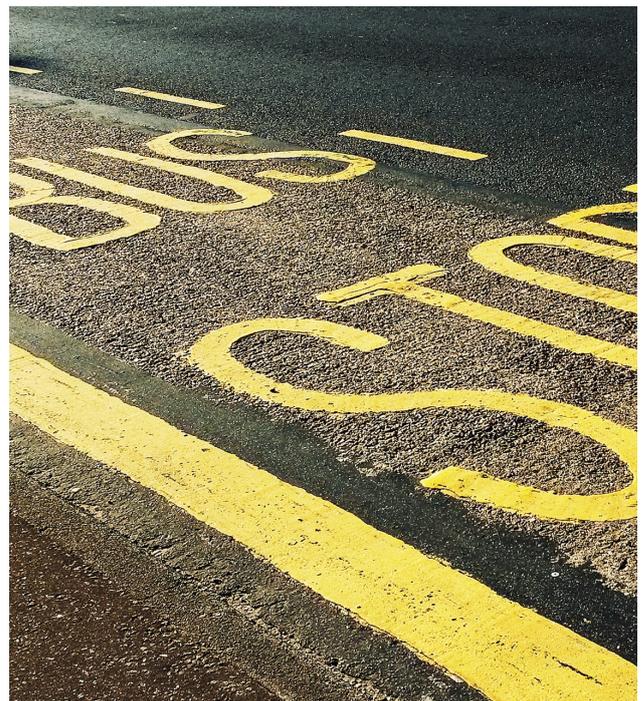


04 Transport



Older people should have access to sustainable and accessible transport to enable increased access to healthcare and basic humanitarian needs.

We ask that the next Welsh Government implements integrated local bus and train services to revitalise Wales' high streets, towns and cities and make local transport links much easier for older people to use



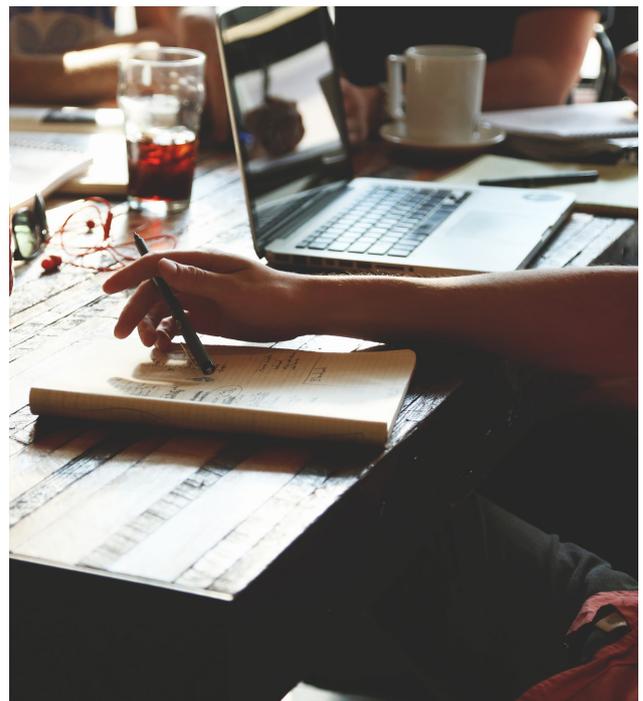
05

Digital inclusion



Older people need access to digital technology (including broadband) as well as the means and training to utilise it effectively.

The Welsh Government must provide financial assistance for those that need help to buy IT equipment and for organisations providing frontline contact services to support digital inclusion.



For over four decades, six local charities throughout Wales have worked tirelessly to reach out to thousands of older people living in our local communities. These independent charities form the social enterprise known as Age Connects Wales.



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