

Later Life Newsletter

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What have older people got to offer?

This publication of interim findings from a Joseph Rowntree Foundation research project - *'Not a one way street'* - examines support for older people based on a simple idea - why not harness the talents and assets of older people who need support and create mutually beneficial relationships for those involved? This is the principle guiding the work of The Elders, a group committed to promoting the universal human rights we all share. [read the report](#)

Contribute to new disability strategy

On 01/01/12 the government announced a discussion with disabled people to gather suggestions for a new cross-government disability strategy. The Government's ambition is to enable disabled people to fulfil their potential and have opportunities to play a full role in society. To realise this ambition, they want to tackle barriers to realising aspirations and individual control, as well as change attitudes and behaviour towards disabled people. A guide has been produced to help organisations run events to consider the new strategy, and money is available to support this (deadline for applications 20 Jan). [Access the facilitation guide](#) and click here to [make your views known](#). Discussion closes 9th March 2012.

A Better Life - what older people with high support needs value This new Joseph Rowntree [report](#) gives older people with high support needs a voice to articulate what they want and value in their lives, and explores key aspects of well-being older people say they value:

- Social – relationships, interactions, social and cultural activities;
- Psychological – control, independence and decision-making;
- Physical – living in a safe and secure environment.

Bereavement Benefits Public

Consultation: launched on 12/12/11 (until 5/03/12), this public consultation is seeking views on proposals to simplify the payment system and contribution conditions. The consultation paper is available on the [DWP website](#)

Factual guide to employing older workers – a toolkit is available on *Business Link* for small and medium employers, designed to help understand the legislation, and offers practical advice and case studies. [access the toolkit](#)

Biggest ever cash increase to the basic State Pension

Pensioners will benefit from the biggest cash increase to their basic State Pension from next April as it goes up by September's Consumer Prices Index of 5.2% - an increase of £5.30 a week, the biggest cash increase since the State Pension was first introduced. [read more](#)

New information about working past retirement age The removal of the Default Retirement Age means that most people can now choose when they want to retire. To help customers understand their options, DWP have provided new information and case studies on [Directgov](#) These pages also include advice on working for longer, tax relief and how to approach employers about flexible working.

Employers and jobseekers over 50 called on for national study

With twice as many workers aged 50 plus compared to under-25s now in employment in the UK, there is a pressing need for employment policies, workplace design and occupational health provision to take account of the needs of the ageing workforce. The national Working Late project's research team is keen to talk to employers (including HR professionals and line managers) and jobseekers that over 50 as part of their study exploring the benefits and obstacles to working up to and beyond state pension age. Anyone interested in taking part should contact the Loughborough University research team directly on **01509 223 025** or email a.r.twumasi@lboro.ac.uk

The Life Academy are hosting free tax workshops for voluntary sector organisations to help raise awareness and understanding of tax issues, so they can better support clients, beneficiaries or members. Contact Stuart Royston on stuart.royston@life-academy.co.uk.

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