

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Chair: Ellen Lebeth, 1 Heyford Ave, London, SW8 1EA. Tel:0207 5825063
Vice Chair: Ted Knight, 17 Gipsy Hill, and London, SE19 1QG Tel:0208 6741454
Secretary: Penny Savage, 61 Hackford Road, SW9 ORE Tel:0207 7357375
Treasurer: Solomon Ghadebo, 20 Sidford House, Briant Estate, Cossen St, SE1 7DD
Tel:0207 2611977

<http://www.lampag.org>
info@lampag.org

**OPEN MEETING
MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2017
THE OLD LAUNDRY
STOCKWELL GARDENS ESTATE
EASTCOTE ROAD, LONDON SW9 9BY
12.30pm to 2.30pm**

SOCIAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

**Speakers: Nicola Kingston, Southwark and Lambeth Strategic Partnership
Citizens' Forum
Shirley Murgraff, Member, NPC Health and Social Care Working
Party. (TBC)**

The social care system is in crisis. Services supporting the elderly and the vulnerable are at breaking point and in danger of falling apart through the lack of proper funding. The government's failure to fund social care will be that elderly people will continue to face an ever increasing future where they might no longer receive the dignified care and support they deserve, like help with washing, getting dressed or getting out of bed. Six consecutive cuts to Local Authorities budgets have led to 26% fewer pensioners obtaining care from councils since 2015. Over 1m older people have unmet care needs. This has led to further reduction in people's independence and well being. **This situation totally unacceptable!**

Come and join the debate on the reasons for the crisis in care and add your voice for a discussion on the way forward and the solution to this troubling state of affairs.

We thank St Thomas' Hospital for providing the facility for us and Susan Wood, Older People's Assessment Unit for her support and that of the Dignity Champions.

NHS Demonstration 4 March

Campaigners from all over the country will descend on London against cuts, closures and privatisation of the NHS. The picture is bleak with the threat of closures or downsizing of hospital's, doctors working under stressful conditions, waiting times in A&E Departments

lengthening, performance falling, the scarcity of beds, patients occupying beds for months because of the lack of social care and services in the community, GP primary care practices, facing rising workloads with none of the promised extra funding. The list goes on. It is abundantly clear that the present position is untenable. Aneurin Bevan, (Health Minister responsible for creating the NHS in 1946) said, **“It (the NHS) will last as long as there are folk left with the will to fight for it.”** LAMPAG will join the fight to save the NHS. (See flyer). If you are unable to do the march show your support by meeting the demonstration at the end. **Be There if you can.**

Housing White Paper

The government launched its Housing White Paper **‘Fixing Our Broken Housing Market’**. The White Paper focuses primarily ‘on building new homes for new households. It does make some reference to **Housing and Ageing**. To ensure a more consistent delivery it is introducing **new statutory duty** through the **Neighbourhood Planning Bill** on the Secretary of State to produce **guidance for local planning authorities** on how their local development documents should meet the needs of older and disabled people. On helping older people to move home, it will explore these issues and generate a range of ideas and innovations to consider **improve information and advice for older people about choices** including **advice on adaptations**, supporting custom built for older people, community living and innovative housing with support available. The government commits to **fund and develop support housing, short term accommodation** and the application of Local Housing Allowance. The government will publish a **Green Paper** this Spring. Older people see housing as the most essential factor in whether they will be able to live safely, well, and independently in their own homes. They want choice and support and a variety of housing options and help with home repairs and adaptations. Most importantly older people wish to be included in decision making around local planning and design, in housing. Crucially, they want joint planning, health, social care and housing to be at the heart of the process. We look forward to having an input into the discussions on housing for older people.

Housing for Older People.

The Communities and Local Government Select Committee is going to launch an inquiry into housing for older people looking at the adequacy of current planning policy, whether more housing designed specifically for older people is required and the extent to which improving specialist housing provision in England could improve people’s health and wellbeing. They are looking to interview people with some real life accounts of their struggles with housing and some suggestions on what would make it better. If you have had problems with housing or know somebody who would like to be interviewed on an hour or so please let me know at the meeting. This will be just for social media at this stage.

AGM March

The AGM will take place on **Monday 27 March** and all relevant documents will be despatched 3 weeks before the AGM. The AGM is an important event in the LAMPAG calendar. We look to electing a full, strong, viable and proactive committee to drive the LAMPAG agenda forward. Collectively we have a wealth of knowledge, ideas, skills and experience so we have to bring these into play in order to build our organisation. We face a long road of challenges and changes for which we need to organise and mobilise. So come forward and join the committee to sustain our history of campaigning and action.

Committee meeting: Monday 27 February, Manor Court 11am to 1 pm.