

Voices of older people on the pandemic

Throughout the first lockdown of the COVID-19 pandemic, in the Spring of 2020, Age NI listened to older people talking about their experiences, their concerns and fears as well as their hopes for a safer future. We captured people's views and voices in a short report called *Lived Experience – Voices of older people on the COVID-19 pandemic 2020*. There were four key themes:

- **Support, health and care**
- **Communication and connection**
- **Loneliness and isolation**
- **Grief and loss**

Age NI in 2020 set out a series of actions urging decision-makers to plan and prepare for life after the pandemic and to learn from older people's shared experiences.

LIVED EXPERIENCE SURVEY 2021

Voices of older people for future planning

Now, as we begin to look forward to life after this pandemic, we want to hear from older people again about what's important to them now and looking ahead to the future.

Age NI is planning a Pensioners' Parliament in 2021. We will use this opportunity to reflect the big issues raised and prioritised by older people from this survey.

Please complete the survey to help us prepare for this event later this year and to help us draft key questions for our elected representatives, policy-makers and decision-takers to influence change and future planning.

What is important to you?

We want to hear about what is of most importance to older people in Northern Ireland now and as we all make plans for a safer, better future.

This survey uses a ranking approach to determine what matters most to you. We will ask you to rank, from 1 to 5, aspects that are of most importance to you. One (1) is the most important to you and five (5) is the least important to you. **It is important that you rank the importance of issues from 1-5 and NOT to rank any the same or we won't be able to analyse your response.**

Your information

Your responses to the survey will be completely anonymous and only used as a basis for providing insight into the issues that matter most to you.

Please note that this survey uses third party software and that your answers will be held by them for the purposes of analysis. Your individual answers will not be used, instead they will be combined with other responses to create a summary report. If you would like to speak to someone about this survey, please contact Laura Stoops (laura.stoops@ageni.org)

Having read the outline of the survey above and how your information will be used, please confirm that:

- Yes, I understand and agree that my information can be used as outlined above**
- No, I do not wish to proceed further on this.**

There are just three themes in our survey:

- **Support**
- **Health and social care**
- **Communication and connection**

SUPPORT

1. Please rank the following aspects of support in order of importance to you – 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important. **Please do not rank any of the options below the same or we will not be able to analyse your response.** For the issue that is **most important to you add (1)**, the **second most important add (2)** and so on. If any are not applicable to you, please add 'N/A' and rank the other issues.

Help inside, outside and about the house

(e.g. food and essentials shopping, support with household tasks and repairs)

Rights of older people

(e.g. being treated as an individual regardless of age, promoting fairness and equality)

Access to cash and local banking

(e.g. making sure cash remains as a payment option and banks stay open locally)

Transport and travel

(e.g. ensuring safe, appropriate travel options and retaining travel passes for over 60s)

Keeping safe from scams

(e.g. protection from on and offline scams, on the phone and at your home)

1.b If you have a question on the theme of **Support** that you'd like to ask at the Pensioners' Parliament, please add it or other comments here.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

2. Please rank the following areas of health and social care in order of importance to you – 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important. **Please do not rank any of the options below the same or we will not be able to analyse your response.** For the issue that is **most important to you add (1)**, the **second most important add (2)** and so on. If any are not applicable to you, please add 'N/A' and rank the other issues.

Ageing well and addressing frailty

(e.g. supporting older adults to age well and live long, active lives through prevention, early identification and management of frailty)

Family carers

(e.g. ensuring additional support for carers and their loved ones)

Equal access to appropriate healthcare and services

(e.g. timely care and treatment to help prevent decline in physical and mental health)

Reviewing the adult care system

(e.g. reviewing the adult care system thoroughly in response to Covid-19 to apply experience and learning)

Planning final care

(e.g. developing support so that appropriate plans are in place for end-of-life care)

- 2.b** If you have a question on the theme of **Health and Social Care** that you'd like to ask at the Pensioners' Parliament, please add it or other comments here.

COMMUNICATION AND CONNECTION

3. Please rank the following forms of communication and connection in order of importance to you – 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important. **Please do not rank any of the options below the same or we will not be able to analyse your response.** For the issue that is **most important to you add (1)**, the **second most important add (2)** and so on. If any are not applicable to you, please add 'N/A' and rank the other issues.

Listen to and engage older people

(e.g. listening to the views of older people, involving them in decisions that impact them)

Promoting Age Friendly initiatives

(e.g. supporting Age Friendly initiatives across Northern Ireland so that the World Health Organisation Age Friendly strategy is promoted)

Getting and staying connected

(e.g. information and support for older people getting online; protecting alternatives for those who do not)

Loneliness, grief and loss

(e.g. developing a resourced Loneliness Strategy for Northern Ireland to overcome the impact of loss over the course of the pandemic)

Breaking down barriers

(e.g. addressing language and cultural challenges, ensuring effective communication for older people with reduced mobility, sight and/or hearing loss)

- 3.b** If you have a question on the theme of **Communication and Connection** that you'd like to ask at the Pensioners' Parliament, please add it or other comments here.

PENSIONERS' PARLIAMENT

From 2011 – 2018 the Pensioners' Parliaments were run by the Age Sector Platform. Highly valued by older people, policy and decision makers, Pensioners' Parliaments give a voice to older people to air and share their views on issues that matter most to them.

Age NI is planning the Pensioners' Parliament for 2021.

4. If you have a question on another theme that you'd like to ask at the Pensioners' Parliament 2021, please add it or other comments here.

5. Would you like to receive more information on the Pensioners' Parliament 2021?

If yes, please provide an email address:

ABOUT YOU

6. What is your age? *(please tick one)*

- Under 25
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- 85 to 94
- 95+

7. What gender do you identify as? *(please tick one)*

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

8. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?
(please tick one)

- Straight/Heterosexual
- Gay or Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Other sexual orientation (please specify)

9. Which of the below best describes your ethnicity? *(please tick one)*

- White
- Irish Traveler

Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background, please describe:

Asian / Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background, please describe:

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

- African
- Caribbean
- Any other Black / African / Caribbean background, please describe:

Other ethnic group

- Arab
- Any other ethnic group, please describe below:

10. What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to?
(please tick one)

- Roman Catholic
- Presbyterian Church in Ireland
- Church of Ireland
- Methodist Church in Ireland
- Other (please specify)

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11. How would you describe your political view? *(please tick one)*

- Unionist
- Nationalist
- Prefer not to say
- Other *(please specify)*

12. Do you consider yourself to have a disability? *(please tick one)*

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

13. What is your marital or civil partnership status? *(please tick one)*

- Single *(never married and never in a civil partnership)*
- Married
- Separated, but still legally married
- Divorced
- Widowed
- In a civil partnership
- Separated, but still legally in a civil partnership
- Formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved
- Surviving partner from a civil partnership
- Long-term relationship *(unmarried)*

14. What are your living arrangements? *(please tick one)*

- Live alone
- Live alone *(with a care package)*
- Live with others *(e.g. partner, family, friends, children, informal carer)*

15. What type of community do you live in? *(please tick one)*

- Countryside / village
- Town
- City

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!