



## Policy & Research Update June 2019

Acting Editor for Jane Vass this month is Senior Research Manager, Libby Webb:

*Since the BBC announced earlier this month that they would stop funding the free TV licence for all over 75s Age UK has been a hive of activity. We're working hard together to persuade the Government that they should fulfil their 2017 general election manifesto promise to maintain the free licence and take back responsibility for funding it from the BBC. Read more about Age UK's work in this area below.*

*As well as doing all we can to preserve the TV licence, we've also marked Carer's Week and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings, and have launched with our collaborators on the Global Council on Brain Health a report on dietary supplements. Read on for more information.*

*I hope you enjoy reading this month's Policy & Research Bulletin,*

*Libby*

## News

**TV licences: Research commissioned by the BBC shows that their means-testing plan will cause many of the poorest pensioners to lose out**

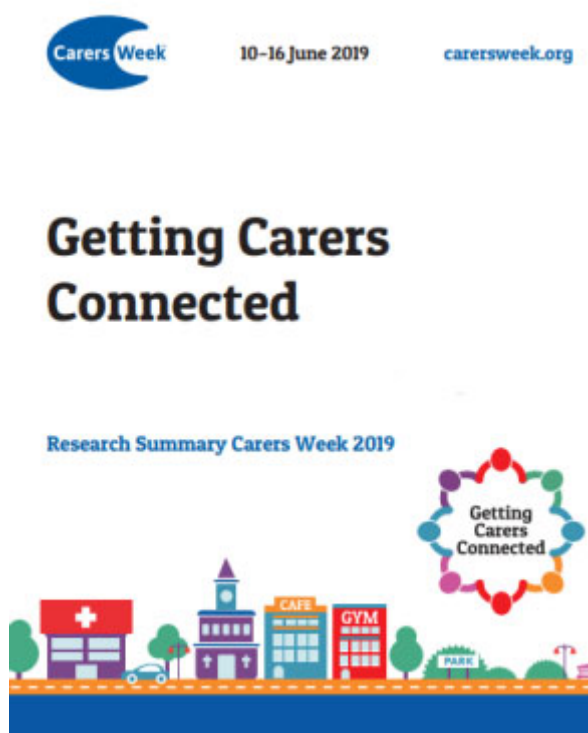
In November 2018, the BBC were warned that, under the means-tested option, only 11% of the poorest tenth of households currently receiving the free licence would actually get to keep it. The consultancy firm Frontier Economics were employed by the BBC to inform its thinking on the future of free TV licences for over-75s, and the report they produced showed the negative impact this plan would have.



Despite this, on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June the BBC announced that from June 2020, the free TV licence would only be available to older people aged 75+ if they were in receipt of Pension Credit, a means-tested benefit designed to help older people on very low incomes.

[Click here](#) to read Age UK's briefing paper, detailing the five reasons the new plan won't help those most in need.

## Feature



[Research released](#) for Carers week reveals unpaid carers feel what they do in life is significantly less worthwhile compared with the rest of the population, with those struggling financially over a third less likely to feel that the things they do in their life are worthwhile. This is despite the vital support carers provide their loved ones and their enormous contribution to society.

With one in six adults now taking on a caring role and at a heightened risk of loneliness seven national charities, including Age UK, have come together to highlight the urgent need to tackle loneliness and improve wellbeing among the UK's carers, who all too often put their needs second.

[Click here to read Getting Carers Connected](#)

## Policy & Research

**Publications**

**Consultation Responses**

The [Warm and Well programme](#) aims to provide advice on income maximisation through benefit entitlement checks in the homes of vulnerable older people, as well as providing information on staying warm in their homes. This interim report is based on findings from Year 2 and draws on the impact the programme has had so far.

[Click here to read the interim report](#)

Age UK has responded the Beautiful Building Commission, responsible for developing practical measures that will help ensure new housing developments meet the needs and expectations of communities.

Click [here](#) to read the response, which can be found under 'Safe at home' on our [Consultation responses](#) page.

## Discover

D-Day commemorations took place this month, and we are taking this opportunity to look at our network's voluntary services which support veterans, their families, and their carers. [Click here to read more.](#)

You can see all our **Discover** articles [here](#).



## More from Age UK

### Age UK information guides and factsheets

The following factsheets have been updated:

- FS35 *Tenancy rights - rent*
- FS49 *The Social Fund, Advances of Benefit and Local Welfare Provision*
- FS68 *Preventing evictions (change of name – previously Tenancy rights – security of tenure)*
- FS74 *Challenging welfare benefit decisions*
- FS87 *Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance*
- FS91 *Pension Freedom and benefits*

All factsheets can be found on the Age UK website [here](#).

Large Print versions of all factsheets are now also available to download [here](#).

## Research

Age UK is a founding collaborator of the Global Council on Brain Health (GCBH) who have released a [new report](#) quashing the link between taking dietary supplements and improvements in brain health.

The GCBH concludes that there's 'no convincing evidence' that nutritional supplements specifically designed for brain health actually benefit thinking skills, memory, or improve

symptoms of dementia or Alzheimer's disease. 'The best way to get nutrients for brain health is from a healthy diet', say the experts.

The full report '[The real deal on Brain Health Supplements](#)' is available to read [here](#).

To learn more about the actions consumers can take to help maintain and improve their brain health, visit [www.stayingsharp.org](http://www.stayingsharp.org)