



## Policy & Research Update

### May 2019

Acting Editor for Jane Vass this month is Equalities and Human Rights Policy Manager, Emily McCarron:

*The rising cost of living, particularly for those older people with disabilities or using social care, are placing an increasing number of older people back under the poverty line. The new study produced by Incisive Health, featured below, illustrates how fragile the care system is, and the changes applying to 'mixed age couples' will affect the health and wellbeing of those who stand to lose out.*

*On a more positive note, in Age UK's new section on frailty in older people, the new NHS Long Term Plan outlines a number of important changes which are intended to ensure that, by getting the help they need to stay as well as possible for as long as possible, older people's rights to autonomy independence are upheld.*

*I hope you enjoy this month's Policy and Research Update.*

*- Emily*

## News

**A third of mixed-age couples claiming benefits could lose out on up to £35,000 while waiting for their younger partner to reach state pension age.**

The new figures have been published with the launch of our new [Behind the](#)

[Headlines report](#) which takes a detailed look at the situation facing thousands of unsuspecting mixed-age couples. Changes to benefits that came in this month means that some mixed-age couples have become ineligible for both Pension Credit and pension-age Housing Benefit – two benefits designed to support the very poorest of pensioners and help them stay above the poverty line. This is likely to disproportionately impact people living in the most deprived areas of the country, and men and women who are already likely to be in poor health by the time they reach State Pension Age.

Our [Behind the Headlines report](#) contains real-life case studies which highlight the actual impact of the Governments policy change. [Click here](#) to read the report, which can be found on our [Reports and Briefings](#) page under ‘money matters’.

**Any older person who is worried about money and/ or who may be entitled to claim benefits should contact Age UK by calling its national advice line free of charge on 0800 169 65 65, visiting [www.ageuk.org.uk/money](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/money) or contacting their local Age UK for free information and advice.**

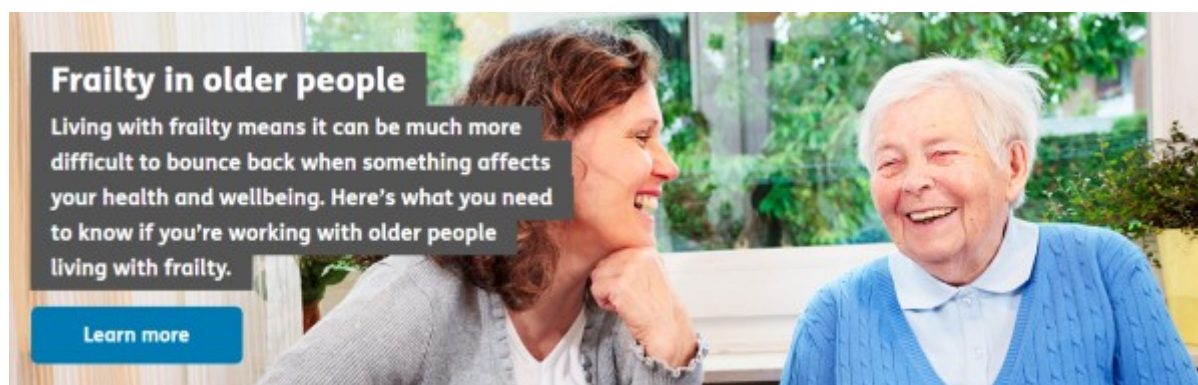
## Feature

This month Age UK has launched two new online resources

### Frailty in older people

The Health Influencing team are delighted to announce the launch of the [‘Frailty in older people’](#) section on the Age UK website. These pages provide an overview of frailty and associated conditions, useful research and resources, and explains how the NHS Long Term Plan will affect care for people living with frailty. We invite you to take a look and keep an eye out for upcoming video clips with experts!

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/our-impact/policy-research/frailty-in-older-people/>



Age UK has launched a second [online resource](#) to help support and advise people with what to do if they are concerned about an older person. The guidance is based on research conducted with older people who, by their own admission, were struggling to cope with aspects of daily life, as well as families and professionals; you can find the webpages at: [www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/worried-about-someone](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/worried-about-someone)



### "Can we talk?"

If you're feeling worried about someone, one of the best things you can do is talk it over with them. These pages are here to help you have that conversation.

## Policy & Research

### Publications

#### [Care deserts: the impact of a dysfunctional market in adult social care provision](#)

A devastating new study produced by Incisive Health and commissioned by Age UK analyses the state of the market for care in England and shows what a desperately fragile state it is in. The report highlights the extent of the local lottery that now exists when trying to secure residential care or care at home, and the long-feared emergence of 'care deserts', where there is no care to be had regardless of how it is funded, in some places.

#### [Click here to read more](#)

The report is located [on this page](#) under 'Care and Support'.



## Discover

Our feature article for **Discover** this month celebrates our incredible marathon runners who ran 26.2 miles to raise money for Age UK. [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:

- *FS5 Dental care: NHS and private treatment;*
- *FS21 Council Tax;*
- *FS34 Attendance Allowance;*
- *FS43 Getting legal advice;*
- *FS55 Carer's Allowance;*
- *FS69 Water advice;*
- *FS76 Intermediate care and reablement.*
- *FS20 NHS continuing healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care has been amended.*

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

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