

TRENDING ELDERS

Quarterly
survey
#4



January-
March
2024

RESULTS SNAPSHOT

- 7 Survey responses
- 4 Organisations represented
- 4 Prominent issues raised

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

"[User] hasn't been out of their home for three years due to social anxiety. They live alone and participate in online groups and activities. Their anxiety is so bad that they can't go anywhere without another person."

Move the Masses

ISSUES

DETAILS

Cost of living

The cost of living crisis continues to be one of the most prominent issues facing older people. Difficulties paying the rising fuel costs are having a huge impact on health and general wellbeing, with multiple organisations reporting that older people refuse to switch on their heating.

Mobility

There has been a rise in the reporting of older people unable to leave their homes. This is due to a number of reasons, fear of falling and injury, lack of assistance and a residual anxiety post covid.

Mental health

Loneliness and isolation are recurring issues that we see being reported, underpinned by many contributing factors. These include: mobility (see above), cuts to services, and a real concern for rising costs and public transport difficulties.

Digital inclusion

More services are being moved online, and many older people are struggling to change with them. This frequently denies access, most noticeably to banking and GP appointments.

WHAT ARE OUR MEMBERS FACING?

"We are helping more and more people access benefits to make ends meet. By comparison, to 2022, the requests for help with this have doubled."

Otley Action for Older People

"Many are struggling to bank online, they cannot deal with NHS bookings and responding to texts if they don't have a smart phone."

Otley Action for Older People

"We have older people who do have sufficient funds but are fearful that the increase in the cost of living means their savings will not last. They are taking hard decisions to not put their heating on or cut down on their shopping, withdrawing cleaners which all have a knock-on effect for their physical and mental wellbeing "

Armley Helping Hands

"Sharp and sustained rise in energy prices in particular have added real pressure. When this is coupled with energy firms generally poor level of customer service and communication, we have had some real difficulties."

Anonymous

Trending elders is LOPF's quarterly survey of members, through which we gather up-to-date intelligence on the issues affecting older people in Leeds.

It's an important tool for increasing the collective voice of our members, and the older people they work with. We can use quarterly reports to:

- **increase our own understanding of what's going on**
- **brief politicians and media**
- **influence commissioners and funders**

Use your voice!

Please become a quarterly respondent to Trending Elders. We ask just three regular questions in an online survey, making it very quick to do.

Please contact jenni@opforum.org.uk if you would like to help amplify our collective voice.

Thank you to all our respondents this quarter.