

Havering Over 50s Forum Press Release – 24 June 2014

Havering Over 50s Forum leads on the creation of a Minister for Older People.

Many areas across the country have a large elderly population, particularly here in Havering, which has possibly the largest percentage of elderly people in all the London Boroughs, approximately one third of our 250,000 population are over 50 with a significant number over 80. We consider that we are not properly represented in Parliament especially as the expectation is that the percentage of elderly people will continue to rise.

A campaign is now well underway to get residents of Havering to write to the Prime Minister requesting that he creates a Minister for Older People.

There is a Minister for Children and rightly so as their needs are different from adults and one for People with Disabilities whose needs are different again. Why not a Minister for Older People whose needs can be complex and are not covered anywhere else?

This age group has a great influence across the Country whether it is knowledge or experience and provide the most volunteers of any other age group. Older people can live as fulfilling a life as they are able by looking after their cultural, social and economic interests as far as possible. They should be looked on not as a burden, but as a group to engage and raise issues with their own dedicated Minister.

Dame Angela Watkinson accompanied by Chairman Cliff Reynolds and President Pam Light delivered over 500 letters to the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street on 10 June 2014, with many more in the pipeline.





Many other councils and organisations across London and the rest of the UK, including AGE UK have now started to expand the campaign, while more letters are still being raised within Havering to be passed onto the Prime Minister.

Hopefully the Havering Over 50s Forum have started a ball rolling that will continue to gather pace until a Minister for Older People is appointed.

The Havering Over 50s Forum is a non-political organisation who offer a platform where the over 50's can find information and raise issues which are of a concern to them. Each month the forum has a selection of speakers and feedback from the executive committee. The forum is open to London Borough of Havering residents aged over 50 and meets Monthly, usually 2nd Tuesday in the month, in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

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