

15 June 2009

OLDER PEOPLE FROM CAMDEN BRING THEIR CARE CONCERNS TO WESTMINSTER IN MASS LOBBY

Older people, their relatives and representatives from Camden descended on Parliament on Wednesday 10 June for a mass lobby on the failures of the care and support system.

Older residents from Camden joined hundreds of older people from across the country to share their personal experiences of care in later life. The zealous campaigners met with MP's in Westminster Hall, discussed their concerns and demanded urgent action to improve the complex and unfair system. They asked their MP to urge party leaders to make a firm commitment to radically reform the provision of care for older people.

The mass lobby, co-ordinated by newly formed charity Age Concern and Help the Aged was part of the charity's nationwide campaign to improve the quality of care for thousands of older people. The charity is demanding that the Government produces its imminent Green Paper on care and support care reform and hopes that real life examples of where the care system has failed older people and their families will go some way to bringing about much needed improvements and change.

Manorama Ross, former trustee of Age Concern Camden said "The way the current care and support system operates is little short of a national disgrace. Many older people are forced to soldier on without the care they need, slowly stripping away their dignity and independence.

"The call for action from older people and their families is loud, clear and unified. It's now time for the Government to stop talking and start taking action. We will not be fooled by false promises and pledges."

Polling for the charity shows that a shocking eight of out ten people in Britain are very concerned about the quality of care they or their loved ones will get in later life. For example, getting help with everyday tasks like getting out of bed, washing, dressing and taking medication.

A further four out of ten people are not confident they will be treated with dignity or respect. The charity described the findings as further evidence of how the care system is routinely failing older people and their families.

Age Concern Camden is calling for people to support its care campaign by visiting www.ageconcern.org.uk/care, email care@ace.org.uk or call the Campaigns team on 020 8765 7656.

To get a free copy of the campaign report "Quality not Inequality" please visit www.ageconcern.org.uk/care or call our information line on free phone 0800 00 99 66

-ENDS-

Notes for editors:

Age Concern Camden offers a range of services and projects to support, inform, advise and inspire older people in Camden. These include Advice and Support, 3 Resource Centres, Advocacy Service, 2 Charity Shops, Computer Training, Counselling Service, Direct Payments Support, Ethnic Community Services, Good Neighbours Scheme, Home Service, Opening Doors LGBT Project, Nail Care Service, Pensions Education Project, Shopping Service, Employment Advice Project, Talking Therapies, Dementia Advocacy and Dementia Befriending. We have a team of 150 volunteers who assist in carrying out these services.

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