

Fast Facts on our key themes

February 2009

Poverty

- 28 per cent of people aged 60 or over live in povertyⁱ
- One in two older people entitled to Pension Credit are not claiming itⁱⁱ
- Up to £168 million of Pension Credit is left unclaimed annuallyⁱⁱⁱ
- Up to 22 per cent of people aged 60 or over are failing to claim Housing Benefit^{iv}
- 51 per cent of households in fuel poverty are pensioner households^v
- 32 per cent of people aged 60 or over are solely reliant on state benefits with no other source of income^{vi}

Isolation

- It is projected that 93,400 people aged 60 or over live on their own^{vii}
- 21 per cent of those aged 65 or over say they are often or always lonely^{viii}
- 16 per cent of people aged 65 or over say they do not leave, or get out of, their house more than once a week^x
- 21 per cent of women aged 55 or over report that 'fear of crime' has a great effect on their quality of life^x
- 14 per cent of people aged 60 or over believed that it was very or fairly likely that they would be a victim of burglary in the next year, 8 per cent a victim of mugging or robbery and 7 per cent a victim of stranger attack^{xi}
- In 2008 42 per cent of those eligible for free transport using a 60 Plus SmartPass and 39 per cent of those eligible for free transport using for a Senior SmartPass had never used it^{xii}

Neglect

- 23 per cent of those aged 65 or over do not receive the help they need to leave the house^{xiii}
- There were 545 excess winter deaths in 2007–8 amongst people aged 65 and over compared to 533 in 2006–7^{xiv}
- 3 per cent of people aged 66 or over experienced mistreatment in their home^{xv}
- 68 per cent of unfit dwellings are occupied by those aged 60 or over^{xvi}
- 44 per cent of non decent homes are occupied by those aged 60 or over^{xvii}

Ageism

- Only 46 per cent of respondents to an Equality Commission for Northern Ireland survey were aware that age discrimination in employment is now unlawful^{xviii}
- 59 per cent of respondents to a Changing Ageing Partnership survey felt that older people are treated with less respect today compared to ten years ago^{xix}
- 66 per cent of respondents to a Changing Ageing Partnership survey agreed that older people are discriminated against as a result of their age^{xx}

- 68 per cent of respondents agreed that older people on the whole are less valued than people in the general population because of their age^{xxi}

Future deprivation

- The number of people aged 60 or over is projected to increase by 53 per cent in the next 20 years^{xxii}
- Over half of adult employees are not contributing to a non-state pension e.g. occupational, personal or stakeholder pension^{xxiii}
- 35 per cent of people aged 65 or over who said they had had a slip, trip or fall, say they worried about the future affects on their physical health^{xxiv}
- 25 per cent of people aged 65 or over say that they are often or regularly worried about the future^{xxv}

ⁱ *Households Below Average Income Northern Ireland 2006-07*

ⁱⁱ *Income Related Benefits, Estimates of Take-Up in Northern Ireland 2004/2006*

ⁱⁱⁱ *ibid*

^{iv} *ibid*

^v *House Condition Survey 2006*

^{vi} *The Pensioners' Income Series Northern Ireland 2006-07*

^{vii} NISRA Household Projections 2006 based figure

^{viii} GfK/NOP data prepared for Help the Aged February 2007

^{ix} *ibid*

^x *Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the 2007/08 Northern Ireland Crime Survey*

^{xi} *ibid*

^{xii} Figures sourced from the Department of Regional Development January 2009

^{xiii} GfK/NOP data prepared for Help the Aged February 2007

^{xiv} Excess Winter Deaths in 2007–8 for persons aged 65 or over, Northern Ireland Statistical & Research

Agency

^{xv} *UK Study of Abuse & Neglect of Older People 2007*, King's College London 2007

^{xvi} *House Condition Survey 2006*

^{xvii} *ibid*

^{xviii} *Attitudes of the General Public in Northern Ireland towards Age-related issues: Research Update*, Equality Commission for Northern Ireland March 2008

^{xix} Research carried out by Millward Brown Ulster on behalf of the Changing Ageing Partnership August 2008

^{xx} *ibid*

^{xxi} *ibid*

^{xxii} 2006 based Projections populations at mid years by age on last birthday

^{xxiii} *Family Resources Survey Northern Ireland 2005-06*

^{xxiv} GfK/NOP prepared for Help the Aged February 2007

^{xxv} GfK/NOP prepared for Help the Aged February 2007