



WLGA • CLILC

Welsh Local Government Association: Older People and Ageing Bulletin – Issue 19 February 2010

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News and Briefing

- **5000 Over 60s to benefit from Welsh Boiler Scrappage Scheme (Welsh Assembly Government, 10 February 2010)**

Over 60s in Wales are set to benefit from a new Welsh boiler scrappage scheme that will come into force on 1 April, Environment, Sustainability and Housing Minister Jane Davidson has announced.

The new scheme will be targeted specifically at the over 60s who are likely to be more vulnerable to fuel poverty.

<http://wales.gov.uk/news/latest/100210boilerscrappagescheme/;jsessionid=XZL1L1BDWzJK41c2yZy2W1SShC6Q1JSCKSvsHcGG39dOnk7tHSDr!1942873537?lang=en>

- **Your chance to shape a new law to help carers in Wales (National Assembly for Wales, 4 February 2010)**

Carers could get more information and advice from the NHS and local authorities under a proposed measure being considered by the National Assembly for Wales's Legislation Committee No. 5.

The Committee is calling for evidence to help consider the proposed Carers Strategy (Wales) Measure. If approved the proposed measure would serve two purposes. It would charge authorities with informing carers of the rights and benefits they are entitled to. And it would ensure authorities involve carers when deciding which services to offer them or the person they are caring for.

<http://www.assemblywales.org/newhome/new-news-third-assembly.htm?act=dis&id=165168&ds=2/2010>

- **Foundation Reignites Fuel Poverty Agenda (Bevan Foundation, 2 February 2010)**

The recent cold snap means the 320,000 households in Wales which need to spend more than 10% of their income on fuel to keep their homes at an acceptable temperature face tough choices. Should they feed the electricity meter or feed the kids? Or heat one room, leaving the rest of their home icy cold?

The Bevan Foundation is pleased to have just won a grant from the Scottish Power Energy People Trust to find out how people on low incomes make decisions about heating their homes.

Help currently offered to low income households includes free home insulation and advice on energy efficiency. But it is not clear if households know about the help on offer or if it is effective. A Fuel Poverty Researcher will be joining the Bevan Foundation team and will be involved in interviewing more than 100 households in March to find out how they decide to heat their homes and their experiences of help with fuel poverty.

The final report is expected to be released in the Autumn in time for Winter 2010/11.

<http://www.bevanfoundation.org/>

- **People should be forced to look after grandparents to repay them for free childcare (Daily Telegraph, 2 February 2010)**

Children should be forced to care for their elderly parents and grandparents, one of Britain's most senior family lawyers has said Lady Deech, the chairman of the Bar Standards Board, which regulates the work of barristers, says the increasing number of working women means that more grandparents are being asked to provide free childcare.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/lawandorder/7130372/People-should-be-forced-to-look-after-grandparents-to-repay-them-for-free-childcare.html>

- **Fundamental changes to employment policies proposed to benefit older workers (Equality and Human Rights Commission, 25 January 2010)**

The Commission is launching a set of proposals for fundamental changes to employment policies to open up more work opportunities for older Britons and address the challenges of an ageing workforce.

The proposals include abolishing the default retirement age, the extension of the right to request flexible working to all, overhauling employer recruitment practices to prevent discrimination and improved training and development. It comes as the Lords have the opportunity to remove the default retirement age through the Equality Bill.

The economy would be the big winner from the Commission's policy. Research from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research shows

that extending working lives by 18 months would inject £15 billion into the British economy.

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/fundamental-changes-to-employment-policies-proposed-to-benefit-older-workers/>

Reports, Statistics and Research

- **Cycles of poverty, unemployment and low pay (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 9 February 2010)**

Families can move in and out of poverty, with some of them becoming trapped in a cycle. What causes this and how does it relate to unemployment and low pay?

This Round-up:

- summarises four projects focusing on the low-pay/no-pay cycle;
- examines relevant current UK policy and practice;
- suggests ways to create longer-lasting routes out of poverty, particularly in relation to job security and wage levels.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/cycles-unemployment-low-pay>

- **Recurrent poverty: the impact of family and labour market changes (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 9 February 2010)**

Poverty is not a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Once poor, the chances are high that a person will suffer poverty repeatedly throughout their life. Therefore, the phenomenon of recurrent poverty requires deeper understanding if policy is to have the greatest impact on reducing poverty. This study analyses statistics on recurrent poverty, using a representative longitudinal survey of households and individuals in Great Britain between 1991 and 2005.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/recurrent-poverty-family-labour-market-changes>

- **How was it for you? - Consumer engagement in the post office closure programme (Consumer Focus, 9 February 2010)**

This new report from Consumer Focus highlights flaws in the consultation process around the Post Office closure programme. The consumer champion argues that lessons must be learnt by providers of essential local services for the future. An unprecedented number of people – around 2.7 million – tried to air their views about the closure programme. However, Post Office Ltd failed to effectively engage consumers in shaping change to the network, with only around one in 13 directly contributing to the formal decision-making process to close local Post Offices.

<http://www.consumerfocus.org.uk/news/learn-lessons-from-post-office-closure-programme-and-put-consumers-at-heart-of-changes-to-public-services-urges-watchdog>

- **'Population Estimates by Ethnic Group, 2001 – 2007' (Welsh Assembly Government, 5 February 2010)**

The Statistical Directorate of the Welsh Assembly Government has published population estimates by ethnic group have been published for Wales for the first time.

Data is available at a country and local authority level, and also by age group and/or gender. A full set of data will be published on the StatsWales website in due course.

Please click on the link to access the publication:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/population2010/0205/?lang=en>

- **Capable Communities- Public Service Reform: The next chapter (Institute of Public Policy Research and Pricewaterhouse Coopers, 4 February 2010)**

The aim of PwC and ippr's Smarter State programme is to explore this shifting relationship between the citizen and the state as the next chapter of public service reform evolves. Our previous work explored how it was possible to devolve power downwards to localities within our highly centralised political culture.

In this paper we turn our attention to the role citizens and communities can play in directly producing services, setting out the challenges that lie ahead, and identifying the questions our research will seek to answer over the coming months.

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=727>

- **A problem shared is a problem halved? Dementia: Learning opportunities from Europe (International Longevity Centre, 3 February 2010)**

This policy brief aims to stimulate debate and drive improvements in dementia research, diagnosis, treatment and care by identifying key priorities for action at the Member State and EU level.

With 7.3 million Europeans living with dementia and with the numbers set to increase to 15 million by 2050, this policy brief argues all European governments need to allocate more resources to dementia.

<http://www.ilcuk.org.uk/record.jsp?type=publication&ID=55>

- **The Fictions, Facts and Future of Older People and Technology (International Longevity Centre, 1 February 2010)**

This new ILC-UK Think-Piece from Simon Roberts, design anthropologist at Intel, considers the role of design in tackling the digital divide.

<http://www.ilcuk.org.uk/record.jsp?type=publication&ID=54>

The Politics of Fairness (Demos, February 2010)

Demos have launched three pamphlets on how and why the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties should make tackling inequality a central part of their policies.

- Wealth of Opportunity (Liberal Democrat) - <http://www.demos.co.uk/publications/wealthofopportunity>
- Everyday Equality (Conservative) - <http://www.demos.co.uk/publications/everydayequality>
- Society of Equals (Labour) - <http://www.demos.co.uk/publications/societyofequals>

- **Calling all Lesbian Women over 70! (LGBT Wales, February 2010)**

Rhiannon Jones from Manchester Metropolitan University is undertaking PhD research that explores the changes women experience in their sexuality as they grow older. If you are female and 70 years of age or older she would love to hear from you. Email: r.jones@mmu.ac.uk or telephone: 0161 247 2357.

<http://www.ecwales.org.uk/>

- **Can equity release help older home-owners improve their quality of life? (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 28 January 2010)**

Around a million older home-owners have at least £100,000 of housing equity, yet they can't afford the practical help they need to enjoy a good quality of life at home.

This *Solutions* document reveals how JRF has been working with local authorities, the equity release industry, voluntary bodies and relevant government departments to develop equity release packages that help older people access funds without threatening their entitlement to benefits.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/equity-release-older-home-owners>

- **You Can't Put Me In A Box - Super-diversity and the end of identity politics in Britain (Institute of Public Policy Research, 28 January 2010)**

Britain is not only more diverse than ever before but that diversity itself is growing more diverse. Identities are more complex and fluid than they used to be, reflecting shifting interests and allegiances. For those of us interested in equality, this new situation presents some difficult challenges. While inequality and discrimination manifest themselves along all-too-familiar lines, identity-based campaigns seem dated. This paper attempts to map out just how diverse Britain is, both in terms of who lives in Britain and how they identify themselves.

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=725>

- **An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in the UK: Report of the National Equality Panel (27 January 2010)**

The independent National Equality Panel was set up in October 2008 at the invitation of the Rt. Hon. Harriet Harman MP, Minister for Women and Equality. The Panel was asked to investigate the relationships between the distributions of various kinds of economic outcome on the one hand and people's characteristics and circumstances on the other. The report addresses questions such as how far up or down do people from different backgrounds typically come in the distributions of earnings, income or wealth?

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/national_equality_panel/publications.aspx

The UK Government has responded to the report and that can be found here:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/GovResponseNationalEqualityPanelReport_acc.pdf

- **Devolution's impact on low-income people and places (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 12 January 2010)**

This Round-up and a series of reports explored trends in social and economic disadvantage as well as policy developments in four areas: housing and homelessness, employment, neighbourhood regeneration and long-term care for older people.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/devolution-and-low-income.pdf>

- **Measuring Severe Child Poverty in Wales (Save the Children Wales, January 2010)**

Measuring severe child poverty in the UK, commissioned from New Policy Institute, reveals that 1.7 million children across the UK live in severe poverty – around 13% of all UK children. In Wales this figure is higher than all the other UK nations – at 15% this amounts to 96,000 children living in severe poverty in Wales.

http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/Severe_Child_Poverty_In_The_UK_Wales_briefing.pdf

Older People's Commissioner for Wales Office – Updates

- **Developing the use of our legal powers (Older People's Commissioner, 4 February 2010)**

The Older People's Commissioner has announced the first area that she will review. The First Review will be older people in a health care or social care setting and whether they are treated with dignity and respect. The Commission is unique because they are able to carry out reviews and make recommendations for change based on older people's experiences.

The Commissioner has produced a short video with an invitation to engage in deciding the exact focus of this review at :

<http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/index.php?id=436>

- **Commissioner meets new First Minister (Older People's Commissioner, 4 February 2010)**

The Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Ruth Marks, along with the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler, met with Carwyn Jones AM on 21 January 2010 for the first time since he took up his new post as First Minister. The purpose of the meeting was to allow both Commissioners the opportunity to raise the concerns of both young and older people in Wales.

Notes of the meeting are available on the Commissioner's website.

[http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/index.php?id=71&L=0&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=182&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=72&cHash=4aeea7c37a](http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/index.php?id=71&L=0&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=182&tx_ttnews[backPid]=72&cHash=4aeea7c37a)

- **Bulletin No. 4 (Older People's Commissioner, February 2010)**

The fourth bulletin from the Older People's Commission has been published containing an update on our work and a sense of the issues that older people are bringing to the Commission.

[http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/index.php?id=71&L=0&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=180&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=72&cHash=65fe936579](http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/index.php?id=71&L=0&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=180&tx_ttnews[backPid]=72&cHash=65fe936579)

Consultations

The Independent Commission on Social Services in Wales - Call For Evidence

The Independent Commission on Social Services was established to consider the provision of social services and social care in Wales over the next decade and in particular how the Assembly Government can

- support the further development of professional practice
- build inclusive social services based on the contribution of all partners who work in social care
- effect a step change in collaboration between social services and with other key services
- ensure integrated social services capable of meeting the needs of children, young people and adults and older people in the most effective way

The Commission invites interested organisations and individuals to submit written evidence on the issues outlined above. It would be helpful if the evidence could

- Identify strengths in current arrangements
- Identify specific barriers or impediments in current arrangements
- Offer possible ways of overcoming such barriers, with examples

We are keen to receive evidence from as wide a group as possible and recipients are encouraged to draw this to the attention of others who may wish to submit evidence to the inquiry. The deadline for receipt of submissions is 26th February 2010.

<http://wales.gov.uk/news/latest/091222commission/;jsessionid=JpHdLIVDcJvGyF83zTm1gcJRJw1XYBvxVBTKPjPn5NIF2F2n83X2!-764344044?lang=en>

- **Paying for Care in Wales: Green Paper consultation on options for reform (Welsh Assembly Government)**

The current system of paying for care for older and disabled people is over 60 years old, and needs to change if we are to meet increasing demand and higher expectations. We want to create a system that is simpler, fairer and more affordable for individuals, their families and government.

The Welsh Assembly Government wants to know your views on how we should pay for care in the future.

'Paying for Care in Wales: creating a fair and sustainable system' was published on 16 November 2009. It sets out a number of options for reforming the current system, and sets out the main advantages and disadvantages of each.

Deadline for Responses: 28 February 2010

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/payingforcareinwales/?lang=en>

- **Putting Things Right – a better way of dealing with concerns about health services (Welsh Assembly Government)**

The Welsh Assembly Government wants to improve the way that health organisations deal with people's concerns about the health service.

The process should be easy to access and people should be able to get help and support to raise their concerns.

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/puttingthingsright/?lang=en&status=open>

Deadline for Responses: 2 April 2010

- **Draft all Wales obesity pathway (Welsh Assembly Government)**

The Assembly Government are consulting on a common approach to how obesity is treated in Wales.

The rising levels of obesity in Wales represent a significant challenge and this is recognised in Our Healthy Future.

There is a need to work together to reverse the trend, to prevent millions of adults and children facing deteriorating health and a lower quality of life and government facing spiralling health and social care costs.

A draft all Wales obesity pathway has been developed. Once finalised it is proposed that health boards use it as a tool to:

- review local policies, services and cross-departmental multi-agency activity for children and adults;
- and develop a full implementation plan to ensure they have planned activity across the full range of determinants which cause obesity and overweight.

The draft pathway has been developed with contributions from a number of key partners.

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/obesitypathway/?lang=en&status=open>

Deadline for Responses: 28 April 2010

Legal News and Updates

- **Retirement age decision not due until summer, warns Lord Young (Personnel Today, 11 February 2010)**

Any announcement on the future of the default retirement age (DRA) will not be made until the summer, the government has said.

Speaking at an Employers Forum on Age (EFA) conference in London on 10 February, employment relations minister Lord Young said an analysis of evidence the government had received as part of its review of the DRA is under way.

"We will look at the weight of evidence and make a decision in the summer, alongside publishing a survey of employers' policies and practice with respect to age," he said.

A consultation will then be held on the proposals with any changes coming into force in 2011, he added.

<http://www.personneltoday.com/articles/article.aspx?liarticleid=54088&printfriendly=true>

A Focus on...profile of lifestyle and health in Wales

Profiles of Lifestyle and Health in Wales

Profiles of lifestyle and health have been produced by the Public Health Wales Observatory as part of a series following the demography profile released in June 2009. It aims to assist the health boards in understanding the health of their population and in their planning activities, as well as provide a resource on lifestyle for other stakeholders.

It presents information on behaviours relating to health, as well as their impact on health in Wales through outcome measures. It provides a snapshot of local patterns in Wales displayed in traffic light tables, and also contains some comparisons to other countries. The topics covered are diet, physical activity and obesity; smoking; alcohol; illicit drugs; sexual health and dental health. For the first time smoking-attributable mortality has been calculated for Wales.

The profiles consist of the Wales reference document Lifestyle and health: Wales and its health boards and a set of seven individual health board profiles (combined or separate):

- All seven health board profiles combined
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board
- Aneurin Bevan Health Board
- Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
- Cwm Taf Health Board
- Hywel Dda Health Board
- Powys Teaching Health Board

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=568&pid=42971>

Events

Wales

- **Food for an intelligent Wales (Cardiff University, 10 March 2010)**

Dr. Michael A. Crawford, a world authority on nutrition and the brain, will explain the evidence, and proposal for solutions, in which Wales could play a valuable role. A 'Question Time' session will follow looking at what policies are the main political parties advocating in the forthcoming election to create a sustainable diet for health, the environment, social justice and the economy?

<http://www.welshfoodalliance.org.uk/>

- **Shaping the Future of Care (Caerphilly, 24 March 2010)**

A study day exploring the practical opportunities to develop co-operatively structured, citizen-directed delivery of care services for people in Wales.

The event takes place on Wednesday 24 March at the Council Chamber, Caerphilly County Borough Council between 10:30-16:00.

www.citizenscouncil.org.uk

- **Unequal Wales - Evidence and Action: Health and Social Care (25 March, Wrexham)**

The Bevan Foundation are holding an evidence and action event as part of their Unequal Wales series on 25th March 2010 between 9:30 - 3pm at Plas Pentwyn, Castle Road, Wrexham, LL11 3NA.

<http://www.bevanfoundation.org/4.html>

- **Course-Introduction to Welfare Benefits (Cardiff and London, March 2010)**

The British Social Security system is notoriously complex due to the huge number of qualifying conditions, the many changes each year and not least the interaction between the different benefits. There is a clear structure that can be learned whether you are looking to signpost claimants in the correct direction or provide basic advice.

This course is currently being offered on an open basis at the following locations-

LONDON- 25/3/2010 10am - 4pm at The Tab Centre, Godfrey's Place, London E2 7NT

CARDIFF- 26/3/2010 10am - 4pm at Cartrefi Cymru 5 Coopers Yard, Curran Road, Cardiff CF10 5NB

The cost is £95 per place includes lunch, refreshments and comprehensive course guide.

www.socialwelfaretraining.co.uk/

- **Listening Events for Dignity in Care (March 2010, Various)**

Three listening events will be held across Wales:

- (a) 23 March at Venue Cymru, Llandudno
- (b) 25 March at the Thistle Hotel, Cardiff
- (c) 31 March at the Halliwell Centre, Carmarthen.

For further information or to book a place email:

dignityincare@careandrepair.org.uk

- **Adult Social Care Consultation (29 March 2009, Cardiff)**

The Law Commission is reviewing Adult Social Care law and is seeking opinions on its proposals, which are due to be published in February. The Older People's Commissioner for Wales is working with the Law Commission and Age Concern Cymru and Help the Aged in Wales to hold an event discussing the impact of the current law on older people and ideas to overcome these challenges. This is your chance to influence the future shape of adult social care law.

The event is aimed at anyone with an interest in this area including older people, carers and frontline workers. We have a range of speakers who will explain the current law, whatever your current knowledge level. There will be a series of discussion groups so you will have the opportunity to discuss ideas in more depth.

To register an interest in attending, please email Ceri at ceri.gilg@olderpeoplewales.com or telephone 08442 640670.

[http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/index.php?id=71&L=0&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=176&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=72&cHash=dc6e22b37f](http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/index.php?id=71&L=0&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=176&tx_ttnews[backPid]=72&cHash=dc6e22b37f)

London

- **Agenda for Later Life 2010 (18 March 2010, London)**

The programme features speakers from the three main political parties, as well as key commentators, and will provide an overview of the key issues affecting older people. Just before the upcoming General Election, the conference will highlight the policy challenges for the decade ahead, and ask how experiences of later life should change by the end of the next parliament.

The conference programme includes discussion seminars led by policy experts to enable you to explore in detail the specific issues most appropriate to your work. As well as providing the latest intelligence on a wide range of policy areas, the discussion seminars will also offer plenty of opportunities to debate the issues with other delegates.

The conference will also launch the first 'Agenda for Later Life' report, which will reflect on the key challenges ahead, and set out the direction public policy must follow.

http://www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/annual-conference-2010.asp?utm_campaign=1103998708&utm_content=1014200536442&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Emailvision

News from around the United Kingdom and Beyond

England

- **A Good Place to Grow Older – A National Commitment (UK Government, 2 February 2010)**

Building a Society for All Ages - consultation response was published on 2 February. Building a Society for All Ages, published in July 2009 set out the Government's strategy for addressing the opportunities and challenges of an ageing population.

This included a commitment for Government to develop a National Agreement with national organisations, to ensure that *Building a Society for All Ages* had an impact at a local level. This recognised the key role for local partners in delivering the ageing strategy, particularly as decisions about designing, developing and shaping communities, and the delivery of most services, take place at a local level.

http://www.hmg.gov.uk/buildingasocietyforallages/consultation_response.aspx

- **50+ back to work evidence review and indicative guide for secondary data analysis (Department for Work and Pensions, January 2010)**

This evidence review was commissioned to provide greater insight into how the scope, nature and effectiveness of Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) back to work (BTW) provision supports the over 50s' return to work. It aimed to identify the key factors associated with successful programme outcomes and to assess which strategies are most effective for older age groups. The review addressed three research questions:

- What is known about outcomes on BTW provision for the 50+ population?
- What types of provision are associated with positive work outcomes?
- What evidence data are available for secondary data analysis?

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep615.pdf>

- **Older Workers Statistical Information Booklet Quarter Two 2009 (Department for Work and Pensions, January 2010)**

This reveals some key facts about workers 50+ in Great Britain including:

There are 20.2 million people aged 50 and over in Great Britain.

71.8% of those aged 50 to State Pension Age (SPA) Are in employment.

Older workers are more likely to work part time than their younger counter parts.

Employment rates vary by English government office region and country, from 77.6% in the South East to 63.2% in the North East.

Self employment is more common amongst those aged 50-SPA compared to younger workers.

People aged 50-SPA have spent on average 13.4 years in their current employment, compared with those below 50 with an average of 6.1 years.

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/owsib2009.pdf>

Scotland

- **Case study 87: Lessons from the Fairer Scotland Fund: Tackling Concentrated Disadvantage in Glasgow (Scottish Government, 21 January 2010)**

This case study is taken from research conducted into the lessons learned from the Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF). The case study focuses on funding to tackle concentrated disadvantage in Glasgow. Case studies from other areas are also available on the website.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/299559/0093394.pdf>

Northern Ireland

- **Report on Review of New Deal 25+ - Public Accounts Committee (Northern Ireland Assembly, December 2009)**

The evidence shows that 'New Deal 25+' brought a number of benefits to the long-term unemployed. However, it is also clear that the overall employment impact of the programme was very limited and often short-lived. Bearing in mind that the period under review was one where the economic conditions were relatively good, this is very disappointing. The Committee acknowledges

that helping the long-term unemployed to secure sustained employment represented a major challenge and that many difficulties had to be overcome. Nevertheless, the Committee's overall impression is that the Department could have done considerably better in terms of job outcomes.

http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/public/2007mandate/reports/2009/report_26_09_10r.htm

London

- **London's Hyde Park to get pensioner playground (BBC News, 9 February 2010)**

London's first dedicated "pensioners playground" is set to open in Hyde Park after being given the go ahead by Westminster City Council. The £40,000 playground will feature fitness equipment designed specifically to provide gentle exercise for people over the age of 60. The playground will be signposted Hyde Park Senior Playground, although under-60s will not be banned. Play areas for older people are already popular in China and parts of Europe. The first pensioner's playground in the UK opened in Manchester in 2008.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/8506302.stm>

And finally.....

- This and future bulletins are available from the WLGA's Equalities and Social Justice Team website.

If you would like to contribute any news items or make comments or suggestions about the Bulletin, please contact me on one of the following ways:

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