

What Independent Age does

Independent Age works to keep thousands of older people independent and out of poverty by providing them with practical support, financial help and lifelong friendship. We have over 140 years' experience of supporting older people at home.

Our support is provided by local teams of volunteers, supported by a small number of staff across the UK and Ireland.

We also operate three care homes in the south of England.

Who we help

We focus on supporting those who:

- are over 70
- are in financial need
- are lonely or isolated

How we do this

The charity is currently reviewing its services in order to better meet the needs of older people in today's society. Our aim is to make sure that all those we help are receiving their entitlements from statutory and other providers and then to provide additional support tailored to the individual's particular needs.

This support will be a combination of:

- regular befriending and support from an Independent Age volunteer visitor
- financial help in emergencies
- additional practical support, such as providing household items and toiletry packs for hospital visits
- membership of the Independent Age community, including regular correspondence, magazines and cards on birthdays and at Christmas
- increasingly, the opportunity to meet and correspond with other members of the Independent Age community

Owing to demand, we are not currently able to take referrals for new beneficiaries but we expect to begin again in late 2010.

Care Homes

Independent Age owns and operates two care homes in Hawley, near Camberley, Surrey, and one in Hove, East Sussex. In addition, Independent Age has flats in Hove and Saffron Walden and bungalows in Hawley designed for older people with disabilities.

Volunteers

Local volunteers are at the heart of our services. Over 1,200 volunteers keep in touch with the beneficiaries and help raise funds.

Our volunteers:

- befriend and support our beneficiaries
- fundraise
- carry out initial assessments of beneficiary needs
- recruit and train other volunteers

We urgently need new volunteers across the United Kingdom and Ireland. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Volunteering department on 020 7605 4255 or by email at volunteering@independentage.org.uk

Charitable Expenditure

In 2008 Independent Age spent a total of £17.6m. Of this we spent £8.8m on grants and regular payments to beneficiaries, £5.9m on our care homes and £2.2m on beneficiary support services.

Increasing Demand

As the proportion of older people increases, there is an ever-growing need for Independent Age's work. Around 2.5m pensioners currently live in poverty in the UK.

How you can help

We receive no state funding and rely on income from individuals to maintain our support to beneficiaries. Please help us with a donation today. You can visit www.independentage.org.uk to make a secure online donation. Alternatively, call 020 7605 4256 to make a credit card donation over the phone or to discuss other ways to support Independent Age.