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Age Concern's response to Labour's manifesto: *New opportunities for later life forward not back*

Gordon Lishman, Age Concern's Director-General said:

"People over the age of 55 are twice as likely as younger people to vote and the parties need to convince them that they will deliver for them if elected. Many older voters, particularly older women, still feel disappointed and unsure about which party to back at the next election.

"There are major challenges ahead in reducing pensioner poverty, building effective public services and achieving fair opportunities for everyone regardless of age.

"Many older people will welcome policies to provide better, more secure pensions, to combat widespread ageism in society and to eradicate fuel poverty as the UK has the highest rate of winter deaths in Europe.

"Many older people will welcome policies to give them more choice over their own care but direct payments will only work if there are quality services for people to choose from locally.

"Older people often feel marginalised by society due to ageism so many will welcome commitments to help them stay in work and to improve access to learning by abolishing age limits on student loans.

"What older people really want is action, not words."

Ends