

25 January 2005

Age Concern response to the launch of the Pension Service Partnership Fund

Gordon Lishman, Director General of Age Concern England said:

"We hope that more funding will mean more cash for older people. Millions of pounds in money benefits are failing to reach pensioners' pockets each year despite two million living in poverty. Any measures to increase the take-up of benefits, particularly among hard-to-reach groups, are positive and very welcome.

"Hundreds of local Age Concerns continually work hard to encourage and help older people claim their benefits and it's essential they have the resources to do this. This money will play an important role in the ongoing provision of this vital service in many areas and will hopefully have a significant impact on take-up figures.

"It will be crucial to evaluate the project so we can build on its success and ensure that partnership working provides an effective nationwide service for all older people."