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AGE CONCERN RESPONSE TO LAUNCH OF CONSERVATIVE MANIFESTO FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Gordon Lishman, Director-General of Age Concern England said:

"Finally the parties are realising that it is older voters who could have the deciding votes at the upcoming General Election. People over the age of 55 are twice as likely to vote as those under 55, and the parties need to convince them that they will deliver for them if elected.

The Conservatives have responded to the voices of many older people who will be pleased with these proposals and anticipating the other party manifestos with interest.

One in five pensioners live in poverty and Age Concern believes that the only way to ensure that everyone has a decent income in retirement is to increase the basic state pension to at least £105 per week.

If the parties want to win over the crucial older voters they need to show how they will provide a decent income in retirement, an end to ageism and access to good public services. "