

WASPI Draft Motion

In the 1995 Pensions Act, the Government increased State Pension age for women from 60 to 65, with a further increase to 66 in the 2011 Pensions Act.

It is believed that c11,800 woman were affected by this change within the area of Mid Devon of which c800 have since died.

Council believes:

This injustice has not only had a profound effect on the individuals involved but on the wider community in Mid Devon and on local government, not least because:

- Some women who would have looked after older relatives or partners are unable to afford to do so, with a knock-on impact on local social care.
- Some women who would have retired and chosen to engage in caring responsibilities for grandchildren, are having to continue working, increasing the childcare burden on the state locally.
- Some women have been left in poverty, are struggling to meet their housing costs, with a knock-on impact on local housing stock.
- The cut to the Winter Fuel Allowance will only amplify problems for many of these women.
- There is a broader impact on voluntary services of all kinds locally, which are missing out on able, active volunteers who would otherwise have been able to retire from full-time work as planned.
- Our local economy is negatively affected by the reduced spending power and disposable income the uncommunicated State Pension Age changes have brought about among women born in the 1950s.

Council supports:

- A swift resolution to this ongoing injustice before more and more women die waiting for compensation.
- The conclusion of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality that women born in the 1950s have suffered a gross injustice, affecting their emotional, physical and mental circumstances in addition to causing financial hardship.
- The PHSO's recommendation for the DWP to issue a formal apology to those affected and provide an opportunity for MPs to urgently debate the APPG's recommendations, and any others, in Parliament.

Council asks the Leader of the Council to write to:

1. local Members of Parliament to raise awareness also referring to the 'PHSO' investigation and recommendations
2. the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to request urgent proposals from the DWP outlining how they will deliver compensation for affected women
3. the Leader of the House of Commons to outline the effects of the injustice on 1950s women in Mid Devon and to request that MPs be given an opportunity to debate and vote on these proposals."