

Later Life Newsletter

Later Life Newsletter

Now reaching over 100,000
individuals and organisations

No 63 – January 2015

Automatic enrolments hits the 5 million mark across nearly 43,000 employers according to The Pensions Regulator's latest figures [Link to report](#).

Carers Allowance: Simpler, Clearer & Faster Over 150,000 carers have now used the Carers Allowance on-line form to make their claim or report a change of circumstance. Key benefits are:

- available 24/7
- accessed through mobile or tablet
- fewer questions than paper version
- password or signature not required
- claim arrives immediately at Carers Unit

The form does not have to be printed or saved and has been developed with direct input from carers and carers organisations. To complete a form click [here](#)

Living with dementia: the advice website My Ageing Parent has published a [detailed guide to dementia](#) – its causes, symptoms and diagnosis. Importantly, it also provides a raft of helpful advice to families to help them deal with the day-to-day issues around caring for a relative.

The latest edition of the [Senior Siren](#) is packed with lifestyle and safety advice. A [commission on home care in England](#), chaired by Paul Burstow, calls for

sweeping changes to the training of care workers, a new licensing system and steps to improve the status of caring as a career. The 'Key to Care' study, commissioned by the think-tank the Local Government Information Unit follows revelations about standards in domiciliary care.

No Place Like Home 300,000 disabled people are already on housing waiting lists across Great Britain, and 5 million people in the UK have a mobility problem and could benefit from a disabled-friendly home. This report from Leonard Cheshire Disability calls for more disabled-friendly and adaptable homes to be built across the UK. [read more](#)

Interest in downsizing and housing options for older people is rising as part of the [debate](#) about solving the housing crisis. [www.downsizingdirect.com](#) provides advice and support to older homeowners considering their options to stay put or to move to a smaller home

Freezing temperatures and icy roads each winter lead to a dramatic increase in 999 calls for Ambulance Services. This [guide](#) shows how they respond. To stay safe:

- Protect yourself and family with a flu jab
- Keep warm to prevent colds, flu & serious conditions
- Access free medical advice via NHS telephone 111, pharmacy, out-of-hours GP service, or by visiting an urgent care or walk-in centre for minor illness or injury. Get more health tips from NHS Choices at [www.nhs.uk](#) .

Going Home Alone: Counting the cost to older people and the NHS Older people returning home from hospital without enough support are more than twice as likely

to be readmitted within three months, according to the Royal Voluntary Service. [read more](#)

Coventry City Council is [launching its Telecareline](#) service by creating a mock lounge in the Council House to demonstrate how gadgets can help people live independently at home after hospital treatment. Coventry Telecareline is part of a city-wide Home First strategy which aims to help people get home quickly after hospital treatment and support them to regain their independence.

Age UK is searching for their digital champion of 2015 – has your life has been changed for the better by learning to use digital technology? Find out more [here](#). Competition closes 30th January.

Can social care research be memorable and fun to read? New [website](#) – the Social Care Elf

And finally, will retirees bankrupt Brazil? Brazil is crumbling under the weight of its ageing population, spending 12.2% of GDP on social security benefits and facing a \$1.35 billion shortfall. People are retiring in their 50s and in 10 years, non-workers will outnumber workers...[read more](#)

To subscribe, or provide contributions contact: Simon.wilkinson1@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
To view previous newsletters click [here](#)