

Impact of austerity on older people

Katherine Hill
Policy Manager, Age UK

Age UK & Age International

We:

- Deliver national services and support the development of services across a network of 160 plus local charities.
- Campaign to improve later life for older people today and tomorrow, influencing legislation, policy and practice, as well behaviour and attitudes towards and ageing.
- Are the only UK charity working for and with older people in developing countries.

£28.3 million

in funding to local Age UKs, supporting them to deliver services to older people in communities across England



Supported

1.8 million

older people and their families in **40 developing countries**

Provided nearly
5.7 million
people with
information
and advice



Identified, together with our local and national partners,

£183 million

in unclaimed benefits

Poverty

**Big falls in
pensioner
poverty but
progress
now stalled**

1998/99
29%

2014/15
14%

% of pensioners with income below 60%
median income (after housing costs) DWP, 2015



Protects
value
of basic
pension
until 2020

Care in Crisis

Unmet need for care rising



Older people who need help with basic tasks such as getting out of bed, washing and dressing, but don't get it
Age UK 2015

What unmet need means for older people



Half of those who struggle to wash/get in the bath do not receive any help



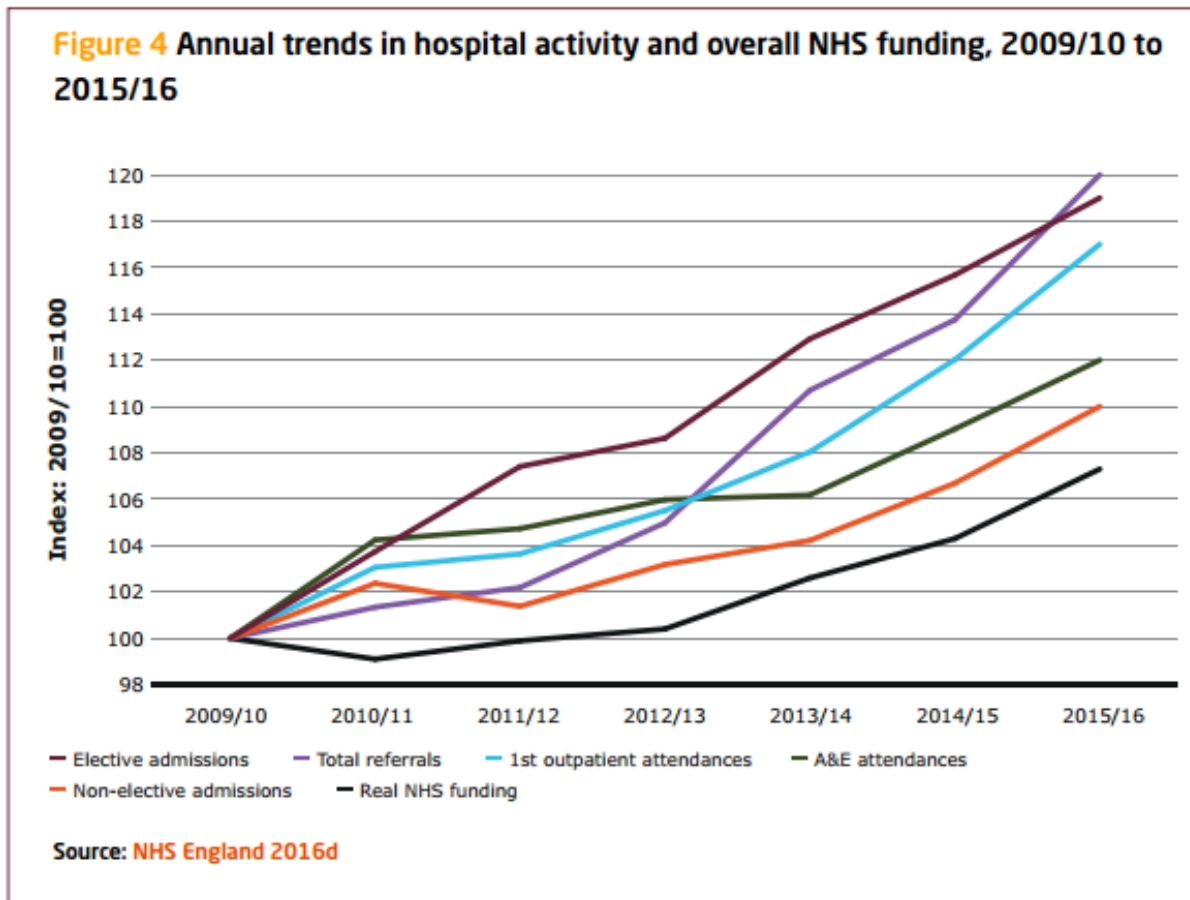
Nearly two in three of those who find it difficult to go to the toilet do not receive any help



Two in three of those who find it hard to get out of bed on their own do not receive any help

Age UK 2015

NHS pressures



Source: King's Fund

Other local authority services



What is Age UK doing?

- Policy and Campaigning: e.g. *Don't Cut Care* Campaign
- Research:
 - Publishing annual 'State of Health and Care' report to shine a light on the impact of austerity.
 - Scoping research on the lived experience of pensioner poverty
- Service Delivery: Age UK Personalised Integrated Care programme
- Engagement: Supporting older people to challenge local decision making e.g. Our Rights Our Voices project.

Case Study: Carrick Over 50's Forum



'This experience has proved the importance of having the courage to challenge the powers that be and not taking no for an answer. The strong human rights and equality duty arguments really supported our battle.'

Source: Our Rights Our Voices Human Rights Toolkit (2015)

