



# Support for older people in England



# About us

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

We are called Human Rights Watch.



We work to make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their rights.

# About this report



This report is about older people in England. England is a country in the UK.



It is about older people and the support they may need.

Support is when people get help to do things.



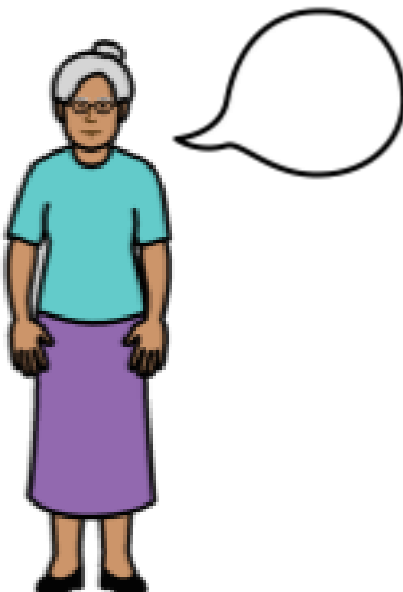
For example, older people may need support to:

- Get washed and dressed
- Cook and clean their houses
- Do things near where they live, like meet people or go shopping



This support is called **social care**.

Local governments give older people this support.



We found out about support for older people in England.

In 2017 and 2018 we spoke to some older people and their families.



We also spoke to:

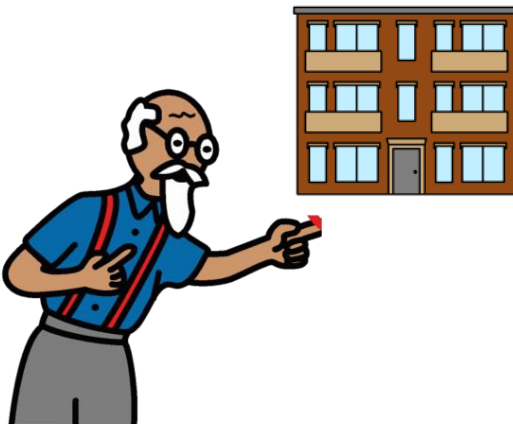
- Organizations that support the rights of older people
- People who give older people healthcare and support
- People who work for governments in local areas and other organizations

## What should be happening for older people in England?



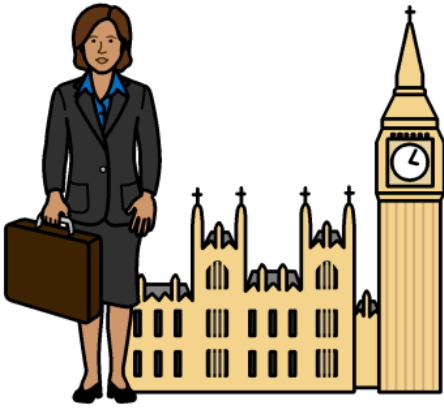
Older people have the right to live in the community with everyone else.

They should get the support they need to do this.



Older people have the right to choose how they want to live.

For example, where to live and who to live with.



The main government for the UK has promised to make sure that older people get their rights.

They are called the UK government.



There are other laws that the UK government should be following.

For example, laws about human rights and the right to live in the community, to health and to a family life.

## How older people should get support



Older people who need support should have a meeting to see what support they need.

The meeting is usually with people who work for the local government in their area.



The meeting is called an **assessment**.

The law says that people can ask for this meeting if they need support.



The meeting should look at what support the older person needs to:

- Live in the way they want and make their own choices
- Be healthy and safe
- Feel OK



The meetings should help older people get the support they need.

But many older people are not getting the support they need.

## What problems do older people have getting support?



### People may have unfair meetings about their support

We found that some older people do not get a fair meeting about the support they need.



Some older people are told that:

- They cannot get support at all
- They can only get some of the support they need



This can stop older people having a good life.

For example, people may have to move away from their families and communities to get support.



## The government does not check that meetings about support are fair

This means the government does not know what support older people really need.



## It is hard to change a decision about support

Older people can try to change the decision about their support.

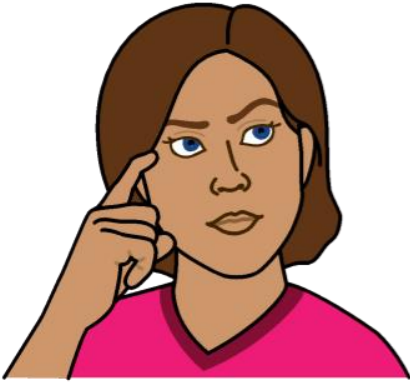


It can be hard to change the decision and it can take a long time.



Older people may not get the support they need while they wait.





## Many local governments have less money to spend

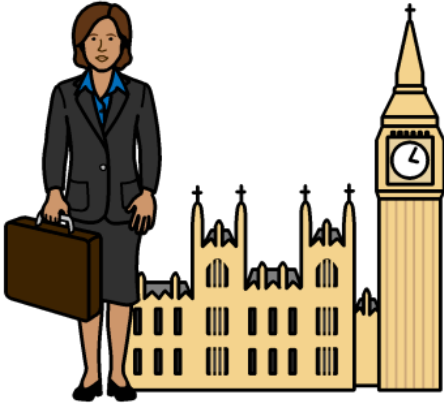
Local governments decide what support older people can get.



But local governments are getting less money from the main UK government.

Experts think that next year the UK government will not spend enough on social care.

## What should happen next



The UK government should start work on the following things straight away:



Make sure that older people get the support they need to live at home now and in the future.

Local governments should have enough money to make this happen.



Make sure older people have fair meetings about their support.

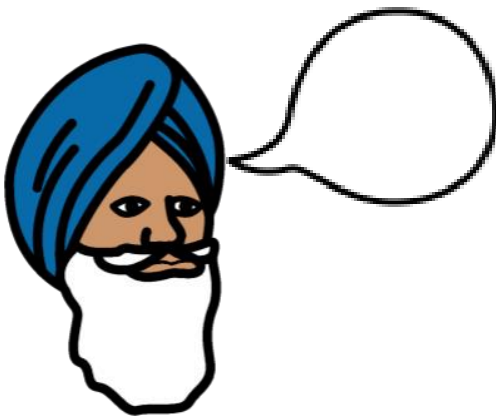
The meetings should be about the support people need and their rights.



Check to make sure that meetings about support are fair.



Make sure older people are not hurt or treated badly because of decisions about support.



Make it easy for older people to try to change the decision about their support.



Make sure older people know how to try to change the decision.

Older people should get support to do this if they need it.



Get better information about older people and decisions about their support.

Use this information to make sure older people get the right support.