



CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS' ALLIANCE

Greater Manchester Group

MAY 2025

Welcome to the Spring/Summer newsletter. This issue focuses on the forthcoming National AGM in the Autumn, policy issues that may be of interest to you and news from our regional representative Harry Brett.

CSPA HEAD OFFICE MOVE: A REMINDER

Contact details for Head Office are below:

CSPA HQ print and circulate this newsletter for us, so if there are any address or membership changes, please contact CSPA Membership Enquiries by phone, email, or post.

FREEPOST RHUB-AGAL-SSUA
Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance,
Head Office, Enquiries,
160 Falcon Road,
London, SE11 2LN

Tel: 020 8688 8418
Email: enquiries@cspa.co.uk

GREATER MANCHESTER GROUP NEXT OPEN MEETING

Our next Group Open Meeting will be held on June 18th at our usual venue, the Methodist Central Hall, Oldham Street, Manchester. This is a short walk from Piccadilly Gardens tram stop. At this meeting we will be selecting our delegate to the National AGM, which will be held in October (see below) and considering any Motions that we might wish to submit for debate and decision at the AGM. If you have any current issues that you would like us to put forward, please come along to the meeting, or alternatively email or phone the Secretary or the Regional Rep so that we can take your ideas into consideration.

Current top priorities for the CSPA are:

- Pensions and pensioner entitlements
- The cost-of-living crisis
- Health and Social Care Services
- Financial and digital exclusion
- Housing and related issues
- Accessible public transport
- Commissioners for Older People and Ageing

REGIONAL BRIEFING IN LIVERPOOL

The CSPA is convening a regional briefing on **25th June 2025** This will be held in the Central Library in Liverpool, commencing at 11-30am, and finishing at 2-30pm. All members are welcome, and refreshments will be provided. David Luxton, Deputy General Secretary of the CSPA will be attending and will brief us on the latest policy and campaign developments. If you would like to attend, please email Harry Brett (address below) so that we can be sure to arrange sufficient refreshments.

POLICY ISSUES: ADULT SOCIAL CARE

On 2nd May, the Government published the Terms of Reference for Baroness Casey of Blackstock's independent commission into adult social care. The commission will form part of the critical first steps towards delivering a national care service.

The terms of reference set out that the commission will report directly to the Prime Minister and will be split over 2 phases:

- phase 1, reporting in 2026, will focus on how we can make the most of existing resources to improve people's lives over the medium term
- phase 2, reporting by 2028, will then consider the long-term transformation of adult social care, setting us on the road to fundamental reform that will build a social care system fit for the future

The commission should start a national conversation about what adult social care should deliver for citizens and build consensus with the public on how best to meet the current and future needs of the population.

In our last issue, we said that we thought the can was being kicked down the road (once again). Now we know: there is to be no significant improvement anytime soon.

CSPA will be making sure that we join in the National Conversation.

We are also tracking developments within Housing, Cost of Living (especially energy pricing) and digital exclusion. Please get in touch with us if you have specific queries on any of these issues. Also, we recommend you visit the CSPA website regularly for up-to-date news on our campaign activities on your behalf. If you wish to see copies of group circulars issued by the CSPA you can find them in the members' area of the Website.

REGIONAL NEWS

I have been decidedly unsuccessful in persuading any of the no-active groups re-activating. I have once again visited each area and invited members to meet me and discuss the possibility. Alas the best attendance I got was 2 at Blackpool, and they made it clear from the outset that they were not interested in re-starting the Group.

SUBMISSION TO RETAIN CASH

We have submitted written evidence (via Later Life Ambitions) to the Treasury Select Committee inquiry on Acceptance of cash. We made it very clear the need to retain cash, especially for elder people and that Businesses should maintain cash as a valid payment option alongside digital alternatives, ensuring that older individuals have equal access to services, maintain financial independence and continue to feel valued and able to participate in society. Equally, access to 'in person' banking and postal services is quite simply essential for many older people.

AUDIO VERSION OF THE PENSIONER MAGAZINE.

The CSPA have now made arrangements to have audio copies of each issue of the Pensioner made available for those who cannot easily read the printed edition. A recording of each issue is being made available on a memory stick, which is to be mailed to each recipient in a returnable wallet. There will be no additional charge to members receiving it and there will be no postage to pay. Members are asked to return the memory sticks in their wallets by turning over the address label and posting them back in time for following issue. If any member would like to receive The Pensioner in this form they should notify CSPA Head Office.

The EC has asked us to let members know of this service through the Newsletters, in addition to notices being placed in the Pensioner.

200 CLUB WINNERS and how to join

MARCH – 1st Prize – Doreen Beresford 2nd Prize – Steven Brown

APRIL- 1st Prize – David Watson 2nd Prize – Kenneth Fox

MAY -1st Prize – John Cooper 2nd Prize – Peter Lowry

The next draw will take place at the meeting in June, so if you want to be in the draw either send me a cheque for £9 or direct to RBS Bank Sort 16-12-11, account 10177528. Of course, straight donations are always welcome.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS beyond June

September 17, October 15, and December 17, 2025

NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2025 AGM will be held in the Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th October 2025. Individual CSPA members, may attend. Further information on this will be carried in the next issue of The Pensioner.

Pam Flynn
Group Secretary stiritup298@gmail.com

Harry Brett
Regional Representative, Executive Council
46 Severn Way Holmes Chapel CREWE CW4 8FT
h_brett@sky.com 07999 874864