Autumn 2026, Norfolk and Suffolk Group Newsletter

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Dear Member,

I hope you have got through the wild weather without a problem and are looking forward to a calmer winter.

Our next Group meeting will be on Wednesday,25 November, 2026, at 2 pm, at Chapel Field Road Methodist Church, Norwich, NR2 1SD. We are having another attempt to get a speaker on bus services, but if that doesn't work out, we will have a talk on a subject of interest. I am sorry for this lack of precision, but I am sure it will be worth coming for. There will of course be a full report back from the CSPA AGM, which will augment the report in this Newsletter.

Full details of the Group meeting and agenda are shown on page 4 of this Newsletter.

Richard

Report of CSPA AGM

As usual, there was a welcome from the mayor of Kenilworth, currently Councillor Alison Insley (Liberal Democrat). Our national chair, Les Priestly, mentioned that she is a cycling instructor, Les also commented that her speech was much livelier than what we usually get, which was certainly correct!

The most pertinent point from our Group's perspective is that our Group chair, Richard West, was re-elected to the executive Council.

Concerning the motions that had been discussed at the September members' Group meeting, I voted the way I had been instructed. The most important effect of all this is that CSPA has voted to continue working towards becoming an incorporated Company limited by Guarantee. There is still much work to do, but the final vote will be taken at next year's AGM.

There were four speakers:

Bernard Seymour – Regulatory Solutions: Bernard has guided the CSPA on the processes and regulations for becoming an incorporated organisation. His talk on the incorporation led to some searching questions from some delegates.

Matthew Boyd – Connect: Matthew detailed the current work of Later Life Ambitions and Connect's support for the CSPA.

Jonathan Safir – CSPA Deputy General Secretary: Jonathan explained about organisation and the current challenges of recruitment.

Morgan Vine – Independent Age: Morgan explained that Independent Age is a national charity to help older people in difficult financial circumstances. She detailed how they operate, including via an e-campaign network, encouraging people to email their MPs and/or respond to surveys, Anyone of any age can become involved.
They offer support and advice on their website (www.independentage.org/getadvice) and free helpline number: 0800 319 6789
Morgan explained about their current campaign and petition for a national social tariff for water. That is to make discounts consistent across England and Wales for people of all ages on low incomes. The petition can be signed on the website.

John Thompson

Budget 2026 – Brief Analysis Key Issues Affecting Older People

Pensions: The Budget contains several significant pension announcements.
The Government announced a new Pension Tax Allowance (PTA) during this Parliament, designed to prevent pensioners from paying income tax solely because State Pension increases push their income above the Personal Allowance. The allowance will apply automatically to those of State Pension age with annual incomes of up to £13,037, providing tax relief worth up to £94 a year.

Triple Lock: The most significant long-term change is the Government's decision to change the Triple Lock from 2030. The State Pension will rise each year by the highest of inflation, 2.5%, or the amount needed to maintain the State Pension's value relative to earnings over time.
The practical details of how the revised triple lock will operate after 2030 have yet to be fully set out. the Government says it is committed to protecting pensioners against inflation and maintaining the State Pension's value relative to earnings over time.
The proposals are intended to support the creation of a National Care Service in England. However, questions remain about how a policy focused on England will

interact with the devolved responsibilities for social care in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Social Care and NHS: The Prime Minister and Baroness Casey have agreed that the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care will report in 2027 rather than earlier as originally anticipated.
For older people, this means continued uncertainty around some of the biggest challenges facing the care system, including affordability of care, support for unpaid carers, workforce shortages, access to home care services and the long-term funding of adult social care.

Energy Bills and Cost of Living: A new £2.6 billion Household Energy Payment scheme will provide £100 direct payments from January 2027 to households in Council Tax Bands A-D in England. Up to 20 million households are expected to benefit, including many pensioner households.
Ofgem has been asked to abolish domestic gas standing charges by the end of 2027, with proposals for electricity standing charge reform to follow. This could particularly benefit many pensioners and single-person households that use relatively small amounts of energy.

Overall Impact for Older People: The Budget provides some immediate financial support through energy bill assistance, protection from unintended tax liabilities for some pensioners, and reforms intended to strengthen private pension provision for future pensioners.
However, the delayed timetable for social care reform and the decision to amend the Triple Lock are likely to be the most significant issues for older people in the years ahead.
You can read the full Budget on: Budget 2026 (HTML) - GOV.UK
If you have any questions or require any further information about the matters covered above, please don't hesitate to contact me, either by email at josie.irwin@cspa.co.uk or by telephone on **020 8688 8418 (Office).**

Changes Of Personal Details etc

If you change your address or other details, please remember to let the Group Membership Secretary, Margaret Noble, know. Please also contact Margaret in the event of the death of a CSPA member to avoid the distress of unwanted mailings.

If you have an email address to which we could send future Group Newsletters, please also let Margaret know. This would save the cost of postage.

The next meeting of the CSPA Norfolk and Suffolk Group will be held on Wednesday, 25 November, 2026, starting at 2.00pm

at Chapel Field Road Methodist Church, Norwich, NR2 1SD

Tea/coffee will be provided

There will be a guest speaker on bus services

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes of the Group meeting held on 9 September, 2026.
3. Matters arising
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report.
6. Report of the CSPA AGM.
7. Arrangements and speakers for future Group meetings.
8. Open Forum
9. Any other business
10. Date and venue of next Group Meeting; Wednesday, 24 February, 2027 at Chapel Field Road Methodist Church, Norwich, NR2 1SD
This will be the Group AGM.
Following meeting:
Wednesday, 26 May, 2027, at St Mary at Stoke Church Hall,
Stoke St, Ipswich, IP2 8BX,

Our Current Committee Members Are:-

Chair:	Richard West	01603 423144	richard.west08@gmail.com
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