**Old Grey Matter article for EADT – Saturday 1st April 2023**

## ****A voice for later life****

In our latest Campaign newsletter no. 175 the National Pensioners' Convention (NPC) has announced they are working with other groups calling for an Older Persons Commissioner for England. We know many older people aren’t having the retirement they’d hoped for, whether that’s because of difficulties getting the right care and support or money worries. Dealing with these difficulties in later life can leave you feeling invisible and powerless. We’re joining forces with other organisations to call for a Commissioner for Older People and Ageing in Englands to raise awareness of the issues people face in later life and to bring together decision makers to make change happen as is happening in Northern Ireland and Wales already.

A Commissioner for Older People and Ageing is a role that is independent of government. It raises awareness and works to resolve issues that people face in their later life. This could be around issues getting the right care and support, or financial issues affecting older people in the cost-of-living crisis and beyond.

A Commissioner for Older People and Ageing will be able to amplify the concerns and hopes of the diverse community that exists in later life. We hear from older people who feel like they don’t have a voice in the Government that represents them, particularly those who face hardship or inequality. A Commissioner would have the power and remit to bring together government departments to put in place solutions that resolve these issues, which would benefit everyone as they age.
To bring about this important change, support makes all the difference. The NPC is working with Age UK, the Centre for Ageing Better and Independent Age and we’ve recently brought together more than 70 organisations to join our call for a Commissioner for Older People and Ageing. You can add your voice to our call by signing our statement of support online at [www.npcuk.org](http://www.npcuk.org/) or on a paper petition we circulate to members from our meetings. We’ll then take your name straight to the top, by asking party leaders to commit to introducing a Commissioner for Older People and Ageing. Take my word - this is no April fool's joke – do you read me?

Chris. Brooks, Chair, Suffolk,

& Anglia Pensioners Assns. (NPC)