

# JUST.

## NEWS RELEASE

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### More than half of over-45s believe later life social care policy is being neglected due to Brexit

- 51% of over-45s agree social care policy progress is being held up by Brexit
- Widespread scepticism about future governments' commitment to improving later life care
- Four in 10 of those who think care is being neglected by Government voted to leave EU

More than half of over-45s think that later life social care policy is being neglected by Government because of Brexit negotiations, new research<sup>1</sup> from care finance specialist **Just Group** reveals.

With a Government policy paper on the future of adult social care in England – originally due in 2017 – still yet to be published and with a further delay announced in the Spring Statement, the research reveals most over-45s (51%) believe the issue is being neglected due to Brexit.

It also highlights the high level of scepticism that any particular party coming into power in the near future would act quickly on reforming what many believe is a crumbling social care structure.

“Reform of later life social care is one of the biggest policy issues the country faces and it is clear that most people think progress is being impacted by Brexit,” said **Stephen Lowe, group communications director at Just Group**.

“It’s a widely held opinion – the number is consistent across both genders and at all age groups from 45 up. It is a view shared not just by two-thirds of those who voted remain, but by four in 10 who voted leave too.”

Around four in 10 (41%) who voted to leave the EU in the 2016 referendum and two thirds (66%) who voted to remain agreed that Brexit is leading to social care policy being overlooked. Less than one in four (23%) of leave voters and one in 10 (8%) of remain voters disagreed.

While most believe social care is being neglected, remain voters are far more likely than leave voters to be worried that Brexit will negatively affect the provision and quality of social care in later life. More than half (52%) of remain voters in 2016 said they are quite/very worried, compared to 15% of leave voters.

Among those who were worried, 80% said they thought it would lead to less funding from government, 62% said they thought tightened immigration will reduce staff numbers, 61% said they thought medicines would be more expensive, and 53% worried there could be a shortage of vital supplies.

One thing both leavers and remainers seem to share is a widespread scepticism about whether the main political parties would move quickly in future to push forward social care reforms at a time when many believe the current funding framework is already close to collapse.

“There was scepticism, perhaps after so many delays, that any party would grasp the nettle,” said Stephen Lowe.

“If Labour got into power, only 9% thought it was very likely they would set out a clearly defined policy in the first two years, compared to 34% who thought it not at all likely. For the Liberal Democrats, 3% thought it likely compared to 38% not at all likely. For the Conservatives, 6% thought it likely compared to 32% not at all likely.

“As you might expect, Brexit supporters are a lot more optimistic about the longer term effects of leaving the EU than those who voted to remain.”

## Enquiries

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### Notes to Editors:

#### Research

1. Research conducted by Opinium Research on behalf of Just Group from 4-11 March 2019 among a sample of 1,001 UK adults aged 45+ and regionally representative across England and Northern Ireland.

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