

# JUST. NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023

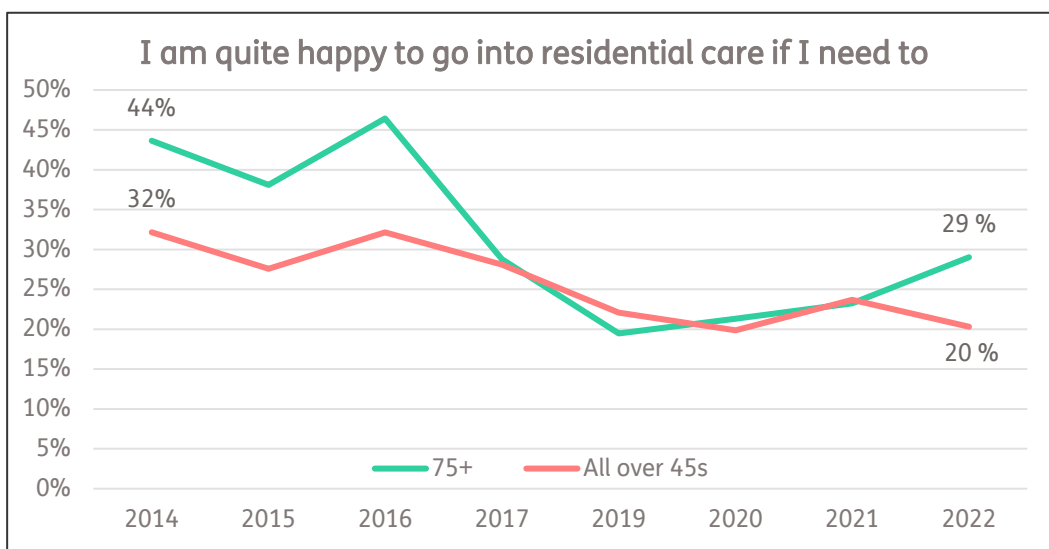


## Record numbers unwilling to go into a residential care home, finds Just Group

- Proportion of over 45s who said they'd be happy to go into a care home falls to record low, while nearly three-quarters of over 75s also set against entering residential care
- Receiving care in their home by far the most popular response but more planning needed to achieve this, says Just Group

Analysis carried out for the **Just Group Care Report 2022**<sup>1</sup> – the longest running research series of its kind – finds that only one in five (20%) of over 45s said that they would be happy to go into a residential care home in later life.

It's the lowest proportion since the retirement specialist first started tracking attitudes towards going into a care home in 2014 and is only matched by 2020 when care homes were placed under terrible pressure as a result of the pandemic restrictions.

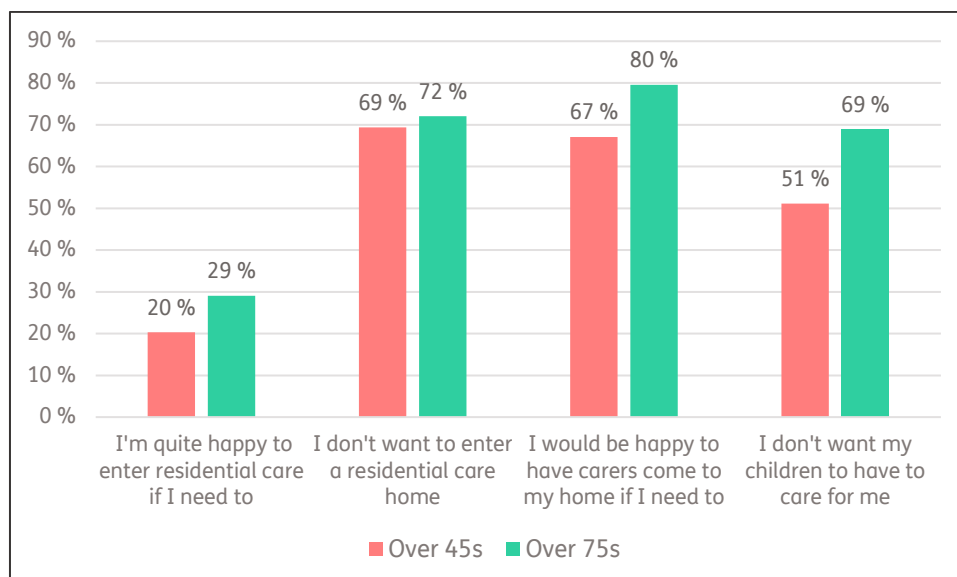


Over 75s were also highly reluctant to enter a residential care setting – fewer than three in 10 (29%) agreed that they would be happy to go to a care home if they needed to, which has decreased significantly from the 44% who agreed when Just Group first asked the question eight years ago.

When the question was posed the other way round - whether they did *not* want to go into a care home - seven in 10 over 45s (69%) agreed. That proportion has dipped a little from its pandemic peak (74%) but is still substantially higher than the pre-pandemic average (63%).

It is even higher among over 75s with 72% set against entering residential care – a proportion that has rocketed from 47% in 2014.

Alternatives to going into a care home were substantially more attractive. Among over 45s more than two-thirds (67%) said that they would be happy to have carers come into their home, rising to 80% among over 75s.



There is also a softening of the stance towards having their children care for them. Only 51% of over 45s said that they wouldn't want their children providing their care – an all-time low which has dropped from a high of 72% in 2016. However, there is a noticeably higher proportion (69%) of over 75s who wouldn't want their children to help out with their care needs.

**Stephen Lowe, group communications director at the retirement specialist Just Group,** said that the findings uncovered the difficult choices people face about later life care and should provide further incentive for older adults to put plans in place for later-life.

"There are increasingly strong views among older adults about how they do and don't want later-life care, should they need it," he said. "The horror stories about care homes during the pandemic seem to have made a lasting impression and we still see significant numbers who are set against going into a residential care setting.

"Having care provided in their own home is by far and away the most popular option for many people, especially among over 75s who are most likely to need greater support in the near future.

"The sooner people start planning for later life care the more likely it is that they will be in a position to receive the care they want, in the way they want. While people do need to engage with their care options as soon as possible to achieve the best outcomes, policymakers also have an important role to play.

"The delay to the care cap and the litter of abandoned reforms successive governments have left in their wake have helped create a cohort of disengaged, confused people – and no wonder with a system that seems to be constantly on the verge of change. Clear communication from the government about the social care reforms, including a timeline for re-introducing the delayed £86k care cap, are vital to building trust in the system and getting people planning for their later life."

## Enquiries

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### Notes to Editors:

#### About the research

**1 – Just Group**, Polling conducted by Opinium between 7th and 11th July 2022 with a nationally representative sample of 1,000 adults in England and Northern Ireland aged 45 and over

#### About Just

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