



Exploring ageing without children in the context of later life inequalities

TLAP Event, with Ageing Without Children

28 September 2023

We are Think Local Act Personal

“*Everyone* should have the care and support they need to be able to live their life their way.”

Think Local Act Personal works to make sure that everybody can get the care and support they need to be able to live well and do more of what matters to them.

Why Ageing without Children?



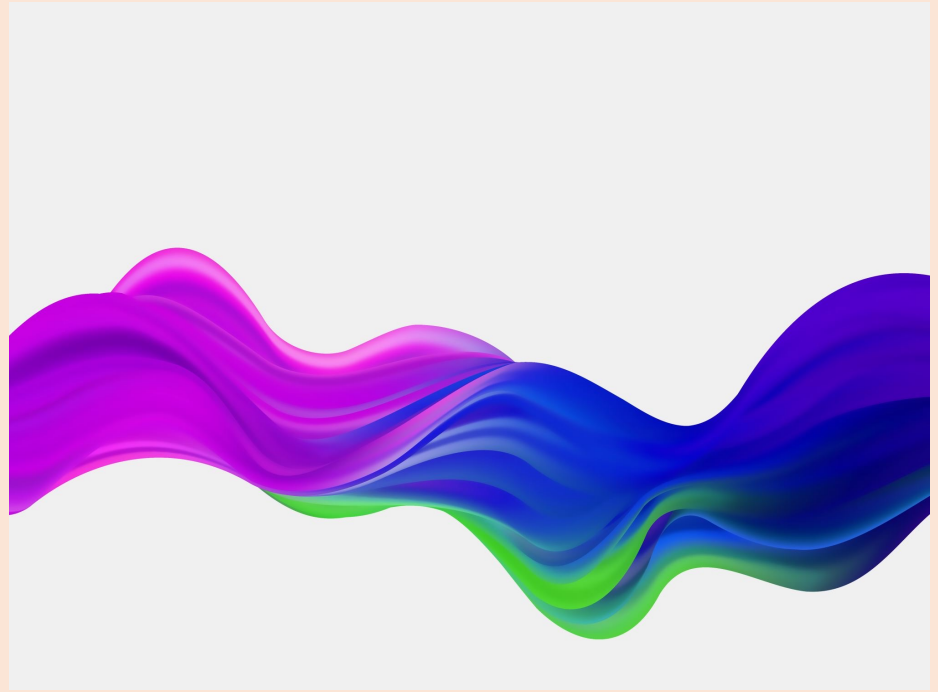
Today's partners



**UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM**

Introducing
Ageing without
Children

Kirsty Woodard
Founder, AWOC



awoc
ageing without children

Who are people ageing without children?

No children at all through e.g. infertility, choice or circumstance e.g. their partner couldn't have children

Children unable to offer help or support e.g. they live at a great distance, may have care needs of their own

Children unwilling to offer help and support e.g. they have become estranged and have no contact

UK Statistics

It is estimated that there are 1.5 million people over 65 in the UK who are not parents

People ageing without children are up to one third more likely to be a carer for their own parents

People ageing without children 25% more likely to go into residential care

80% increase in Older People who are single, without children and have a disability by 2032

An estimated 4 million people over 50 have no children

Research by the Office for National Statistics indicates that by 2045 there will be 3x as many people over 80 without children

Impact

Emotional

- feelings of grief & loss
- a feeling of invisibility
- varying experiences of different groups e.g. men, LGBTQ
- feeling isolated & excluded

Practical

- need for advocacy
- emergency point of contact
- help with everyday practical tasks

It's not all doom....

01

People ageing without children are more likely to volunteer and participate in community activities

02

People ageing without children tend to have a wider network of friends and good relationships with wider kin

03

People ageing without children are more likely to leave money to charity

Why does it matter?

Growing reliance on paid for care - There are many more people ageing without children than before and they are more likely to need paid for care services than those with family support.



Meeting future needs - Formal care services whether in the statutory, private or voluntary sectors will need to both understand more about the issues affecting people ageing without children so they can design services to meet those needs (including access and communication systems that do not rely on family), and provide more of them to meet the increased demand.



The impact of inequalities on ageing and the adverse effect of being isolated with poor support networks, loneliness, poor health and a low income has been well documented. People ageing without children are disproportionately represented in many of these groups.

What can we do?

01

Ensure that we understand the issues facing people ageing without children

02

Ensure people ageing without children are included when services are being planned or reviewed

03

Design services that do not rely on family

04

Ensure our services are "AWOC Confident"

05

Ensure all older people are helped to plan for their later life



Working with the
invisible million

AGEING
WITHOUT
CHILDREN

A Toolkit for
organisations



AWOC Toolkit

Definition of an AWOC confident organisation

“An organisation where people ageing without children are understood, included and supported. In an AWOC Confident organisation, staff and volunteers will be aware of and understand the issues affecting people ageing without children and ensure they feel included and confident to access support, participate in activities and the community and able to raise concerns without fear of judgement and exclusion.”



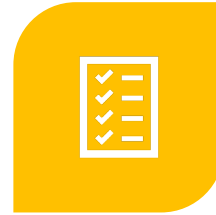
Self Assessment Checklist



STRATEGY



INFORMATION
& PUBLICITY



ASSESSMENT



SERVICE
DELIVERY



STAFF TRAINING
& SUPPORT

And finally

*If we can improve things
for people ageing without
children then we will make
services better for all older
people*