

## Written prayers

### Care in crisis for older people

#### Prayer points:

(Based on the key issues outlined at [www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/campaign/poor-quality-care-services-big-g/care-in-crisis-key-issues/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/campaign/poor-quality-care-services-big-g/care-in-crisis-key-issues/))

Please pray for

- wisdom and compassion for the Government as they prepare their social care White Paper (due to be published later this year)
- creative, sustainable ways to provide extra funds for the care system so that everyone can get the care they need
- insight and energy for organisations, such as Age UK, who are lobbying the Government on care reform, and for public support for their campaigns
- reassurance and peace for those worried about the system changing and what it might mean for their future care needs
- comfort, love and help for those being let down by the current system.

#### Written prayers

##### Praying for a reform of the care system:

Father God, Provider and Sustainer,  
We lift to you a care system in crisis.

You ask us to love one another;  
But we've sat back and let a failing system take our place.  
You call us to protect the vulnerable and the poor;  
But we've stood by and watched it ignore those most in need.  
You teach us to respect the wisdom of older people;  
But we've allowed it to strip their dignity.  
Father, forgive us.

And we stand now to ask for your help – for those who are hurting, lonely, frightened or anxious;  
For those in need of care.

We pray for a new system that puts people first, and provides care simply and easily to those who need it.

We pray for a fair and straightforward system which doesn't discriminate by location, or favour only those who can understand its complexity.

We pray for more funding and for low income to never be a barrier to good quality care.  
We pray for a system centred on gentleness and love, in which older people feel respected, listened to and visible.  
And we pray for a secure future for all those in care – a future of hope, free from worry, and full of joy.

We ask all this in the name of your precious son, who showed us how to care.  
Amen.

**Praying for older people let down by the current care system (inspired by Matthew 5:1-12):**

Lord Jesus, you have said “Blessed are those who mourn”;  
Please comfort us when we grieve for lost friends, lost family and lost youth.

Lord Jesus, you have said “Blessed are the meek”;  
As our minds and bodies age and change, please show us the glory of our inheritance in you.

Lord Jesus, you have said “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness”;  
Please fill the hearts of those of us who are too old or frail to speak up with the promise of your justice.

Lord Jesus, you have said “Blessed are the peacemakers”;  
Please refresh all your faithful, peace-loving servants with the knowledge that they are co-heirs with you.

Lord Jesus, you have said “Blessed are you when people insult you”;  
Please transform our culture into one that respects older people, protects everyone’s dignity, and rejoices in the wisdom that comes with age and experience.

We praise you, Lord Jesus, faithful friend to young and old, and ask for the fullness of your blessing to fall on us and on our elders today.  
Amen.