

Report to British Irish Council Edinburgh March 2015
Spend to Save - innovative approaches to preventative spend

Politicians are becoming wary of describing older people as a 'burden on society' and referring to the 'ticking time bomb' of the ageing demographic.

But old habits die hard. They still use the dependency ratio as a measure of the problem. As members of the University of The Third Age pointed out during their recent presentation ['Not Old But Gold'](#) at a PAG meeting on 17th February not all old people are dependent and not all people between 18 and 65 are in employment and actively contributing to the NI Fund.

Recently Howard Quayle MHK, Minister for Health and Social Care heard this report presented at a recent meeting of the British Irish Council in Edinburgh. Spend To Save describes some initiatives aimed at keeping people in the community and shows how spending a little money in the right place can help older people a lot.

I'm not sure whether the lack of data on life expectancy in the Isle of Man and the lack of any Policy/Strategy for older people living here shows what a low priority we have for our politicians or not. Certainly the lack of data collected by IOM government was one problem highlighted by Professor Sarah McGhee in her talk to PAG members.

How can you make good policy without data to guide you?