

Copy for **Policy Update** (April 2008)

Pamela Holmes Healthy Ageing Programme, Help the Aged

Passionate about the standard of public toilets?

Help the Aged is pleased to announce that it has negotiated the inclusion of age-friendly criteria in the judging criteria for Loo of the Year Awards (LOYA) to influence best practice of public toilet provision. LOYA is run by the British Toilet Association and has been running for 20 years with the objective of encouraging the highest possible standards in all types of 'away from home' or public toilets. It has 60 separate award categories and major sponsors include The British Cleaning Council.

The new age-friendly criteria are based on the views and opinions collated from older people through our report Nowhere to Go as well as small focus groups and will attempt to highlight issues such as lighting, safety and large locks.

In addition, for the first time ever, there will be a national award presented at the Award ceremony in December for the best 'age-friendly' toilet. And we are inviting you to be part of this by nominating those public toilets in your area that you consider to be 'age-friendly'. These nominated toilets will then be invited to enter the Loo of the Year Awards where they will be assessed and inspected.

To nominate an age-friendly toilet, please send your name, contact details, the establishment name, address and any other useful information such as a contact number or person for the loo you are nominating to Healthy Ageing Programme, 5th Floor, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. Nominations must be received by the 30 June 2008.

For more information on the Loo of the Year Awards visit www.loo.co.uk or contact 01962 850277.

The Help the Aged report Nowhere to Go can be downloaded from <http://policy.helptheaged.org.uk/healthyageing> or by contacting the Healthy Ageing team at Head Office.

In 2007, Help the Aged collated the views of over 1000 older people on the provision of public toilets. The results showed that 82 per cent of respondents felt that public toilet provision in their area does not meet their needs. The Charity presented these views to Communities and Local Government through its steering group for a Strategic Guide on Public Access to Toilets. This Guide will be published in Spring 2008 and presents a guide to local authorities and service providers on the provision and access of conveniences.