

Older Women, Work and Health

Older Women, Work and Health – Reviewing the Evidence, a research report jointly commissioned by Help the Aged and TAEN – The Age and Employment Network, was launched on 6 November at an event held at the King's Fund.

The report revealed the paucity of research on the work and health of older women despite their increasing participation in the labour market. Today 69% of women aged 50-59 are in paid work and 12% of women aged 60 and over.

Authors Lesley Doyal and Sarah Payne of the School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol, made several recommendations including the need for a greater commitment to age and gender equality in occupational health research, the organisation of work, workplace health interventions, and in the framing of wider social policy if the needs of older working women are to be met.

There were presentations by Paul Cann, Director of Policy, Research and International at Help the Aged; Rupert Lown from the Workplace Health Division at the Department for Work and Pensions; and Corinna Stowell, TAEN, who stood in for Lesley Doyal who was unable to attend due to ill health.



Issues raised in a lively debate, chaired by broadcaster Angela Rippon, included the age and gender discrimination older working women face; the effects of caring and domestic responsibilities; the lack of centrally collected data on prescribing patterns for men and women; the limited availability of funded training to support older women wanting to return to work; and the need for accurate information on the impact of the menopause.

A full report can be downloaded from <http://policy.helptheaged.org.uk/healthyageing>

