

Eleanor Tunnicliffe – Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Richmond Park and North Kingston

My Mum retired recently. I always remember her working - she's been a school teacher all her life and also volunteered at her local Citizens' Advice Bureau. It's odd seeing her enter this new and very different phase of life, but I think she's enjoying it. But like sons and daughters across the country I'm anxious that she not only be comfortable as time goes on, but also that she get the best out of life.

Older members of our communities have spent their lives helping and supporting us. It's right that we should do all we can to give them the security they need to enjoy their later years. That's why Labour has already:

- introduced **winter fuel payments** of £250 for the 60s and over and £400 for the 80s and over this year
- brought in the **Freedom Pass** for the over 60s
- given those aged 75 or over a **free TV licence**
- paid for **free swimming** for the over 60s in Richmond and Kingston

But Labour will go further if it wins the next election. Our key pledge for older people is the introduction of a **National Care Service**. The thinking behind the scheme is that older people should be helped to stay safely in their own homes as long as possible – as that is where most want to be.

Some people already get free care, and the National Care Service will protect their savings from future charges. Others will get free care for the first time paid for by **£420 million** from central government.

If you want to know more about Labour's policies you can contact me by email at eleanor@etunnicliffe.co.uk or writing to me at Starr House, 57 Church Road, Richmond TW10 6LX.

From April 2009 Pensioners can expect: