

- End the *exploitation of interns*; ensure no unpaid full-time internship lasts more than four weeks.
- Make *renting affordable* and possible again for young people through our housing policies, especially those on regulating the private rented sector and rents.
- End the exploitation of young people in *low-wage jobs* through our living wage policy.
- Keep *Housing Benefit* for under 25s.
- Do more for young people who have no family; a basic first step would be to pay foster carers a salary, costing about £0.9 billion a year.
- Provide access to suitable emergency accommodation for the 200,000 young people who go missing every year if they are unable to return home safely.
- Support the right of young people all over Europe *to go to other parts of the EU* to work and broaden their experience.
- Provide more *training and work experience* for young unemployed people through expanding apprenticeships; specifically, provide an apprenticeship to all qualified young people aged 16–25 who do not have one and want one.

What Green councillors do for young people out of school...

In 2012, Green councillor Simon Grover persuaded Tory-run St Albans, Hertfordshire, to pledge to provide a youth centre in the town in the next five years.

In Malvern, Worcestershire, Green councillor John Raines led the campaign to allow the community to buy a Council-owned youth centre earmarked for demolition and housing development. It is now thriving under community ownership.

OLDER PEOPLE AND PENSIONS

Age used to be respected. Now there's the beginning of a backlash against older people, particularly the baby boomer generation approaching their seventies. They've had it easy, it's said – secure jobs, final salary pensions, good health and a housing market that has rewarded them but made it almost impossible for today's young people to get housed. And, as a generation, they have despoiled the planet and their swelling numbers threaten to bankrupt our health and pension systems.

The real picture is more complex. There are huge inequalities between older people, and many have had difficult lives. The free university education of the past was a privilege for a tiny group of people. Many more working lives were totally disrupted by Margaret Thatcher's assault on manufacturing industry in the 1980s – these older people bear the scars of industrial diseases and health inequalities. Many older women in particular have lead lives confined by lack of opportunity.

The Green Party's policy for older people is simple. First they are people, and they have the same rights and hopes as everyone else. They should be treated fairly and equally in employment, education, healthcare and avenues for enterprise. Ambition should not be shut off just because we get older.

Second, there are certain things they should be able to rely on without the indignity of means testing. The most basic is a universal state pension. We would introduce a Citizen's Pension, paid to all pensioners regardless of contribution record from 2016, so no pensioner will live in poverty. It will pay £180 per week to a single pensioner and £310 per week for a couple, taking all pensioners above the poverty line. Future increases will be at the higher of the price increases of basic goods and services or average earnings.