



INDEPENDENT AGE PARLIAMENTARY AUDIT

NOVEMBER 2017



advice and support for older age
**Independent
Age**

METHODOLOGY NOTE



Objectives

The key aims of this research were to:

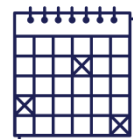
- Provide continued tracking of familiarity with Independent Age among MPs; and
- Explore attitudes towards social care and the care homes market among MPs.



Method

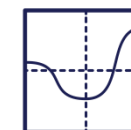
ComRes surveyed 119 MPs with constituencies in England using a combination of paper and online surveys.

Base	119
	51
	66
Other	2



Fieldwork dates

14th November – 11th December 2017



Interpretation

Data have been weighted by party and region to be representative of the House of Commons.

With a sample size of 119 English MPs, the margin of error on results at a 95% confidence level is ± 7.92 . Differences of less than this should be treated as indicative.

Findings marked with an asterisk (*) indicate a low base size. These results should be treated with caution.

SOCIAL CARE

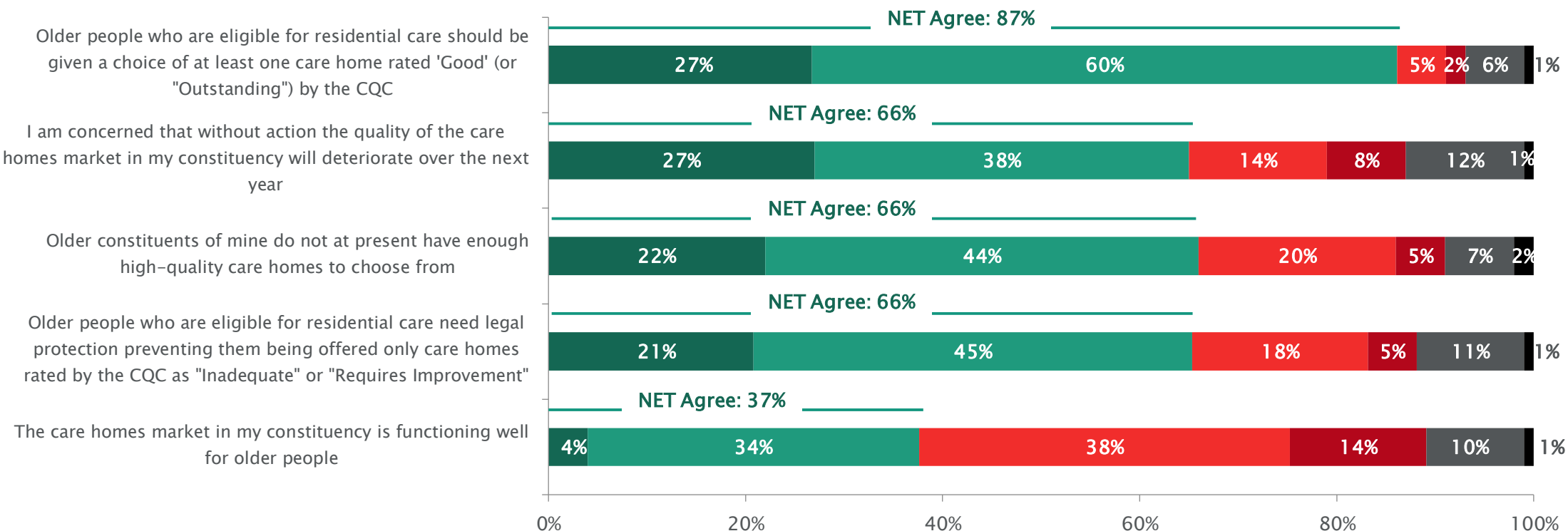


THE VAST MAJORITY OF MPs AGREE THAT OLDER PEOPLE SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHOICE OF AT LEAST ONE CARE HOME RATED GOOD OR OUTSTANDING

- The vast majority of MPs agree that older people who are eligible for residential care should be given a choice of at least one care home rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by the CQC (87%). This argument appears to attract more agreement than the idea that older people who are eligible for residential care need legal protection preventing them being offered only care homes rated by the CQC as 'Inadequate' or 'Requires Improvement' (66% agree with this).
- Less than two in five MPs (37%) agree that the care homes market is functioning well in their constituency, and just 4% strongly agree with this. In addition, two thirds (66%) agree that they are concerned that, without action, the quality of the care homes market in their constituency will deteriorate over the next year. This reflects previous findings that a considerable proportion of MPs consider social care to be an urgent issue, and highlights the opportunity for Independent Age to take a leading role in recommending solutions to challenges in the sector.

Perceptions of social care in the UK

■ Strongly agree
 ■ Tend to agree
 ■ Tend to disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Don't know
 ■ No response



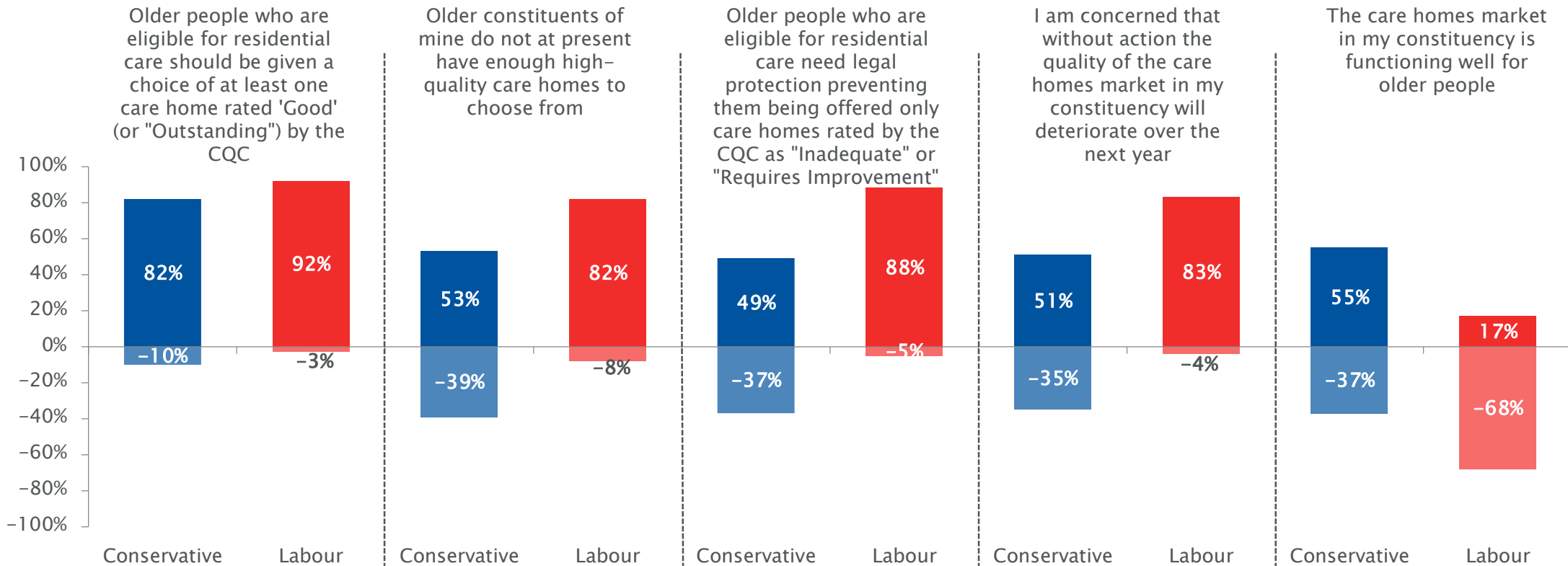
Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Base: All MPs in England (n=119). Please note that percentage figures may not add to 100% due to rounding and the small proportion of MPs who do not provide answers to all questions.

SEVERAL PARTY DIFFERENCES EXIST ON PERCEPTIONS OF THE CARE HOMES MARKET IN MPS' CONSTITUENCIES

- Overall, Labour MPs tend to have much more of a defined position on the issues tested, while Conservative MPs are more split.
- While a clear majority of MPs from both main parties agree that older people who are eligible for residential care should be given a choice of at least one care home rated 'Good' (or "Outstanding") by the CQC (82% of Conservative MPs and 92% of Labour MPs), significant differences exist regarding perceptions of the care homes market in MPs' constituencies. For example, while around half of Conservative MPs (55%) agree that the care homes market in their constituency is functioning well for older people, just 17% of Labour MPs agree with this.

Perceptions of social care in the UK- by party

Showing NET: Agree and NET: Disagree



An aerial night view of London, featuring the Gherkin skyscraper in the foreground and the city lights extending to the River Thames in the background. A large red diagonal overlay covers the left side of the image.

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