The Grandparent Renaissance

Time, Love and Know-how, Working for the Next Generation

An independent SovereignOS™ companion paper on Restore Britain's published policies · 27 November 2026

Sources: Restore Britain's official website and policy papers, official UK statistics and law, and named surveys, each opened and checked on 27 November 2026

'Human beings are social beings with deeply felt inter-generational bonds who work not only for themselves but for the good of our families, unborn as well as living.'

— Abolish Inheritance Tax, Restore Britain, March 2026

An independent view. This paper is the independent view of SovereignOS™, written by a Restore Britain member and supporter. It builds on Restore Britain's published policies, viewing them through a systems lens, and draws on more than 30 years of experience. It is not Restore Britain policy and it has not been endorsed by Restore Britain. Everything attributed to Restore Britain is quoted or summarised from its own published documents, which are referenced. Proposals P61–P70 are SovereignOS™ suggestions, numbered on from A Policy on the Policies, offered in support of Restore Britain's aims.

Executive summary

Bottom line. Britain has about 14 million grandparents [1, 2]. Many are retired. Most have time, all have love for their grandchildren, and many have money, contacts and a lifetime of know-how. They already give a great deal: grandparents spend an average of £1,659 a year on their grandchildren's childcare costs [3], and one study values their unpaid childcare at about £96bn a year across the UK [4]. The Grandparent Renaissance asks a simple question: what if that time, love and know-how were organised, so that grandparents could change their towns for the next generation, and earn a fair income doing it if they need one?

This paper sets out how. It is written to stand on its own, and it aims at three outcomes:

- **1. Help British pensioners.** An income for those who need one, from honest commission on products and services they believe in, and purpose for everyone: a respected role, new friendships and a reason to get out of the house. About 1.7 million pensioners, 14%, live in relative poverty after housing costs [5].

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- **2. Bring life back to local economies.** Grandparents who recommend good local food, trades and services to their families and neighbours keep money circulating in their own town, and grandparent-led campaigns give councils a reason to act on parks, schools, high streets and safe streets.
- **3. Get harmful things out of, off and away from children.** The flagship strand, In Them, On Them, Around Them, looks at what is in our children (food and water), what is on them (the fields and parks they play on, the products on their skin) and what is around them (the air they breathe, the products in their homes). Grandparents ask, measure and press for cleaner choices, and recommend vetted alternatives.

It starts with mobilising grandparents. Before anything is sold, grandparents organise, and the first cause is close to every grandparent's heart: playing fields, parks and playgrounds free of weedkillers, as about 50 councils have already achieved [6]. Free Grandparent Circles in every town (P61) choose local causes, gather the facts and take them to the people responsible. A Grandparents' Call for Action (P62) obliges councils, school trusts and water companies to answer them in public, and a yearly local report (P63) shows what children in each area face. The causes are chosen locally, across health, learning, safety, local food and business, and nature. The rule is always 'measure first, then act'. Section 1 walks through a full campaign, from a first meeting to a council that has stopped spraying where children play.

Alongside the movement, three features let grandparents earn honestly, and keep it safe:

- **The Grandparent Catalogue.** An independent committee of experts vets products and services that are good for grandchildren's futures, across health, learning, financial security, local food and business, safety and nature, and publishes them in an open catalogue under the Grandparent Renaissance Seal of Approval: a household mark in the spirit of the familiar Good Housekeeping seal, but focused on children's long-term health, with open criteria and no pay-to-play. It revives one of Britain's best-loved shopping traditions: the catalogue agent who sold to friends and neighbours for a commission [7, 8].
- **Paid direct, nothing in the middle.** Each company pays commission directly to the grandparent who made the sale. SovereignOS™ sets the rules and convenes the committee; it takes no cut and never handles the money.
- **Never a pyramid.** This is a service to retirees and the people they love. It must never become multi-level or network marketing: no joining fees, no starter kits, no stock to buy, no targets, no recruitment bonuses, no downlines and no earnings from anyone else's sales. Pyramid schemes are already illegal in the UK [9]; the No-Pyramid Charter (P66) goes further and bans every feature that lets a scheme drift towards one.

It proposes ten measures, P61–P70:

- **Organise (P61–P63).** Grandparent Circles in every town; a Grandparents' Call for Action that obliges councils to answer local residents publicly; and a yearly local report on what is in, on and around children.
- **Earn honestly (P64–P66).** The Grandparent Catalogue and its Independent Expert Committee; direct company-to-grandparent commission; and a binding No-Pyramid Charter.
- **Keep what you earn and are owed (P67–P68).** Small commission earnings that are simple to declare and fair under Pension Credit; and the National Insurance credits for grandparents' childcare made automatic.
- **Invest in the next generation (P69–P70).** Grandparents in schools, teaching what they know; and Grandchild Bonds and community shares, so grandparents' savings build their grandchildren's town.

Bottom up, top down, middle out. Every measure works on three layers at once. Bottom up: grandparents, families, local shops and trades. Top down: the national rules only Parliament can set, on tax, Pension Credit, National Insurance credits and the ban on pyramids. Middle out: councils, schools, water companies and the independent committee that stands between companies and families. Table 7 tags every proposal by layer, and Diagram 2 places each on the Sovereignty Stack.

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What this means for you

If you are a grandparent: you can join a free Grandparent Circle near you and help get your council to stop spraying weedkiller where your grandchildren play, and act on the other causes you care about; and, if you wish, you can recommend vetted products and services to family and friends. You never pay to join, never buy stock and never recruit anyone.
If you sit on a council: you will receive organised, well-informed requests from local grandparents, and a duty to answer them in public (P62). You will also gain hundreds of willing volunteers.
If you need an income in retirement: each company you recommend pays you a published commission directly, on your own sales only. The first £1,000 a year of trading income is already tax-free [10], and P67 asks that small earnings are not clawed back from Pension Credit almost pound for pound.
If you look after your grandchildren: you may be owed National Insurance credits towards your State Pension. Only 14% of grandparents know about them [3]; P68 makes them automatic.
If you are a parent: you get a trusted, independent guide to what is good for your children, and grandparents who can press the council, the school or the water company on your family's behalf.
If you run a company with something good for children: you can apply to the Independent Expert Committee. If your product passes, grandparents across Britain can recommend it, and you pay them directly when they make a sale.
If you run a local shop, farm or trade: local produce and services can be listed in the catalogue, so grandparents send their neighbours to you.
If you pay tax: most of this costs the taxpayer nothing: companies fund the committee's vetting and pay the commissions. The costed items are small and listed in Section 9.

1. Grandparents mobilised: it starts on the playing field

Ask a grandparent what they want for their town, and many will start with the grass. Grandparents are tired of watching their grandchildren roll, tumble and picnic on school, village, town and city playing fields, parks and playgrounds that have been sprayed with weedkiller, very often to keep edges and paths looking tidy. It is the most natural place for the Grandparent Renaissance to begin: a cause every grandparent understands, that every council controls, and that dozens of councils have already shown can be fixed.

1.1 The facts, calmly

- **Councils still spray, but fewer every year.** A survey by the campaign group Pesticide Action Network UK, using Freedom of Information replies from 368 councils, found that councils applied 354 tonnes of pesticides in public spaces in 2024, mostly weedkillers, and that the true total is higher because parish councils were not included. Almost half (47%) of responding councils used no pesticides on playing fields, and about a quarter (26%) kept their parks and green spaces pesticide-free [11]. The group counts about 50 UK councils as entirely pesticide-free, and more than 100 that have stopped or made significant progress [6].
- **Glyphosate is the most common.** The same survey found the weedkiller glyphosate to be by far the most widely used in towns [11]. It is approved in Great Britain until 15 December 2026 while the Health and Safety Executive completes a renewal assessment, with a public consultation still to come [12]. In October 2026 the Government told Parliament that HSE plans a 60-day public consultation on its draft assessment, and that the uses being considered include professional-only use in home gardens, schools and playgrounds [13].
- **Government already points the way.** The UK Pesticides National Action Plan 2025, agreed by all four UK governments, sets a target to cut each of the 20 measures in its Pesticide Load Indicator by at least 10% by 2030 against 2018. For the amenity sector, which covers places such as parks and sports pitches, it says the governments want to 'reduce reliance on pesticides', while recognising their continuing role, for example in keeping public highways safe [14].

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- **Councils have shown it works.** The National Action Plan itself holds up Cambridge City Council, which used mechanical street cleaning and hot foam to cut herbicide applications from three in 2021 to none in 2023, with residents helping through a 'Happy Bee Street Scheme' [14]. Midlothian Council has set out plans to stop using weedkiller in play areas and on grass pitches, strimming instead, with signs saying 'Pardon the weeds, we're feeding the bees' [15]. Trowbridge Town Council, whose sites include parks, recreation grounds and play areas, adopted a policy in October 2025 that aims to stop using pesticides through a phased reduction [16].

Pesticides approved in Great Britain have been assessed by the regulator for use as authorised, and this paper does not claim otherwise. The case for pesticide-free places where children play rests on precaution, on choice and on nature: children spend their days on that grass, alternatives exist, and councils across Britain have already made the switch without the sky falling in. Grandparents are well placed to ask their own council to do the same.

1.2 A grandparent campaign, step by step

The example below is illustrative: it shows how a Grandparent Circle could get its council to adopt pesticide-free grounds maintenance for the places children play. Every step uses rights and methods that exist today, plus the Call for Action proposed in this paper (P62).

Step	What the Circle does	Layer
1. Gather (month 1)	Grandparents meet at the library or the pub, form a Circle (P61) and agree one clear goal: no weedkiller on the town's playing fields, parks and playgrounds within three years.	Bottom up
2. Measure (months 1–3)	Send a Freedom of Information request asking what the council sprays, where, how often and at what cost; map every playing field, play area and school field; talk to the groundsmen, who know the job best.	Bottom up, middle out
3. Learn (months 2–4)	Visit or call a council that has already switched; collect the methods that worked elsewhere: strimming, mechanical sweeping, hot foam, mulching and letting some edges grow.	Middle out
4. Propose (month 4)	Write a short, costed three-year phase-out: children's spaces first, trials on two sites, invasive species such as Japanese knotweed treated as the law requires, and a community volunteer weeding scheme.	Middle out
5. Ask in public (months 4–6)	Gather local signatures, from parents, teachers and sports clubs as well as grandparents; use the Call for Action (P62) to get a public answer and a meeting; brief local councillors of every party and the local paper.	Bottom up, top down
6. Help it happen (year 1–3)	Grandparents adopt patches, join weeding days and put up the signs; the council's yearly report (P63) shows spraying falling, field by field.	Bottom up, middle out
7. Celebrate and spread	The council adopts a pesticide-free policy for children's spaces; the Circle shares its file with the next town.	All three

Table 1. An illustrative grandparent campaign for pesticide-free playing fields, parks and playgrounds.

1.3 Why grandparents, and what comes next

Retirement was once thought of as stepping back. For millions of British grandparents it is the opposite. The Grandparent Renaissance rests on four things grandparents hold in greater measure than any other generation:

- **Time.** Retired grandparents can attend the council meeting at two in the afternoon, sit on the school governing body, and follow a campaign for as long as it takes.
- **Passion.** Nobody cares more about a child's future than the people who raised that child's parents.
- **Contacts.** A lifetime of friends, former colleagues, clubs, churches, pubs and neighbours. Grandparents know who to call.
- **Intellectual capital.** Nurses, engineers, farmers, teachers, accountants, tradespeople and managers, with decades of know-how that too often goes unused the day they retire.

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They also have standing. A council may brush off one complaint, but it cannot easily ignore a well-organised group of local grandparents with the facts in hand and the patience to keep asking. People aged 65 to 74 already volunteer more than any other age group [17]. The playing field is the first campaign, not the last. Circles choose their own causes:

- **Health and the environment:** what goes into school meals, the river where children swim, the air outside the school gate.
- **Learning:** reading volunteers, school libraries, apprenticeships with local trades, the local history society.
- **Safety:** safe routes to school, crossings, street lighting, protection from scams for older neighbours.
- **Local food and business:** local farms and butchers on the school menu, a market on the high street, a pub or shop at risk of closing.
- **Nature:** a community orchard, a cleaned-up stream, a meadow on the edge of town.

Mobilising comes first because it is what grandparents most want to do, and because it builds the trust on which everything else rests. The catalogue, its Seal and the income that can come with them (Sections 4 to 6) grow out of Circles that already know their towns.

2. Where we are

There is no official count of grandparents in the UK. The figure of about 14 million is an estimate by the Grandparents' Association that has been quoted for many years [1]; the Department for Work and Pensions has quoted a range of 11 to 14 million [2]. What grandparents give depends on what is counted. Table 2 sets out the best available figures, with their dates.

Measure	Figure	Date	Source
Grandparents in the UK	About 14 million (estimate; no official count). DWP has quoted 11 to 14 million	Long quoted	Grandparents' Association [1, 2]
Grandparents who provide regular childcare	Over 7 million	2023	SunLife [4]
Look after grandchildren during the working week	52%, for an average of 10 hours a week	June 2026	SunLife survey of 2,000 [3]
Day-to-day childcare costs paid by grandparents	£1,659 a year on average (food, days out, uniforms, school trips, tech)	June 2026	SunLife [3]
Broader weekly spending on grandchildren	£79.57 a week, over £4,000 a year; about £46bn a year nationally	2023	SunLife [4]
Value of grandparents' unpaid childcare	About £96bn a year (SunLife's estimate)	2023	SunLife [4]
Saving for grandchildren's future	42% were saving, about £154 each a year, £2.4bn in total	2013 (dated)	J.P. Morgan poll via YourMoney [18]
Use savings or investments to cover costs	7%; 16% have faced financial difficulty from the extra costs	June 2026	SunLife [3]
Aware of Specified Adult Childcare credits	14%; 1% have claimed	June 2026	SunLife [3]
Pensioners in relative poverty (after housing costs)	1.7 million, 14%	2024/25	DWP via House of Commons Library [5]
Formal volunteering at least once a month (England)	25% of people aged 65–74 and 24% aged 75+, against 18% of all adults	2025/26	DCMS Community and Engagement Survey [17]

Table 2. Britain's grandparents in eleven numbers.

So the core money figure is about £1,700 to £4,000 per grandparent a year, depending on what is counted. Add SunLife's £46bn of spending to its £96bn value of free childcare and the total is more than £140bn a year [4]. These national totals are SunLife's own extrapolations from a survey of about 2,000 grandparents and the 14 million estimate; we treat them as a measure of scale, not as official statistics. The 2026 SunLife survey is the most current source [3].

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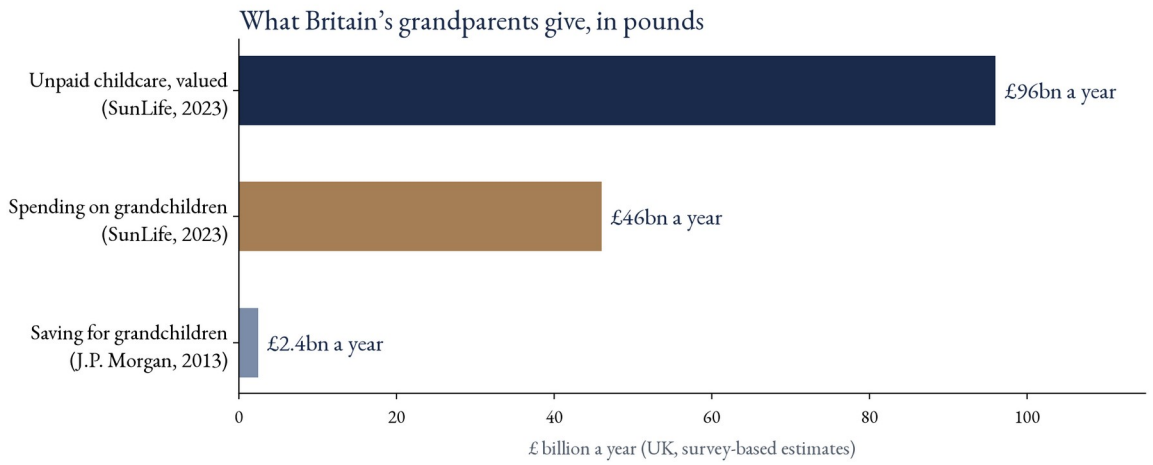

Chart 1. What Britain's grandparents give each year. Sources: SunLife 2023 [4]; J.P. Morgan Asset Management poll, 2013, reported by YourMoney [18]. Survey-based estimates; the 2013 savings figure is dated.

Behind the numbers is a mixed picture. Most grandparents enjoy looking after their grandchildren (82%), but 27% now feel obliged to, up from 9% in 2024, and 27% say their children would not cope financially without their help [3]. Many also help with the big moments: in 2013, 19% had helped with a deposit for a home, 32% with a wedding and 31% with a car [18]. Grandparents are already the quiet foundation of British family life. This paper is about giving them a stronger voice, and a fairer return.

3. What Restore Britain proposes

Restore Britain's programme already puts the family, and the bonds between generations, at its centre. Table 3 sets out the positions this paper builds on.

Restore Britain's position	What it says
Pro-family policy at the heart of everything	'Put Pro-family Policy at the Heart of Everything We Do', including making childcare 'more accessible and more affordable' [19]
Abolish inheritance tax	Families 'should be free to pass the fruits of a lifetime's labour to their children'; inter-generational bonds, 'unborn as well as living' [20]
Secure pensions	'The state pension is secure with Restore' [21]
Clear labelling	Clear meat-labelling requirements to support British farming standards [22]
Town centres and family courts	Restore our town centres; reform family courts so that good parents are not kept from their children [19]

Table 3. Restore Britain's published positions relevant to grandparents.

Where we see even greater opportunity. We think Restore should give further consideration to grandparents as a named part of its pro-family policy, because they already provide more childcare than any scheme the state runs, and they hold the time, savings and experience that young families lack. Thus we see even greater opportunity in a programme that treats grandparents not as a cost to be protected but as a force to be organised.

Where we see even greater opportunity. We think Restore should give further consideration to living inheritance, because the inter-generational bond Restore defends at death is at work every day of a grandparent's life, in childcare, in savings and in advice. Thus we see even greater opportunity in helping that bond work in the open: in schools, in local causes and in a trusted catalogue of what is good for children.

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4. The flagship strand: In Them, On Them, Around Them

In Them, On Them, Around Them is the movement SovereignOS™ designed to protect children from the chemicals and pollutants they meet every day. It is the flagship strand of the Grandparent Renaissance, though not the only one. The question is simple: what is in our children, what is on them, and what is around them?

	What it covers	What grandparents can ask for	Who answers
In them	Food, drinks and water	Where school food comes from and what it contains; clear labels; clean drinking water	Schools, councils, caterers, water companies
On them	Playing fields, parks, play surfaces, clothing, products on the skin	No weedkiller where children play (Section 1); safer products at home	Councils, schools, sports clubs, families
Around them	Air, rivers and beaches, products in the home	Air quality at the school gate; sewage spills near where children play; safer cleaning and garden products	Councils, the Environment Agency, water companies, families

Table 4. In Them, On Them, Around Them.

The need is real, and the facts are public. In England, 22.2% of children in Year 6 were living with obesity in 2024/25 [23]. In 2025 the storm overflows of England's water companies spilled for 1,878,240 hours, across 292,119 spill events; that was 48% fewer hours than in 2024, mostly because of drier weather [24]. On air, the Chief Medical Officer has written that air pollution is 'associated with impacts on lung development in children', and that 'except for air quality in our own homes, we have little control as individuals' over what our families breathe [25]. That is exactly why organised local action matters.

British food and water are among the best regulated in the world. The aim is not to frighten anyone, but to make the facts visible and local, so that a grandparent, a parent or a school can see what is in, on and around their children and choose better. Where the facts show a problem, grandparents press for a fix. Where a better product exists, the catalogue (Section 5) can list it.

5. The Grandparent Catalogue

5.1 A British tradition, renewed

For most of the twentieth century, millions of British families shopped from catalogues, and the catalogue came to them through a person they knew. Mail order in Britain was built on the agency system: catalogues held by agents, 'ordinary people in families, neighbourhoods, pubs, clubs, and workplaces' [7]. In 1932 John Moores launched the first Littlewoods catalogue and wrote to some 20,000 of his football pools subscribers, inviting them to become agents who would collect payments and distribute the goods [26]. Freemans, founded in 1905, had 30,000 agents by the 1930s, and by the 1960s the 'catalogue lady' calling at houses to collect orders and weekly payments was a familiar figure [27]. The big catalogue companies paid their agents a commission, typically 10%, for selling to friends and family; in its heyday each agent served about 20 customers [8].

The model faded as close-knit neighbourhoods broke up and agents came to buy mainly for their own families [28, 8]. But its central idea was sound, and entirely different from modern network marketing: one agent, trusted by neighbours, paid by the company for the agent's own sales. Nobody was paid for recruiting anyone. The Grandparent Catalogue keeps that idea and adds three things the old catalogues lacked: independent vetting, open rules, and a purpose beyond the sale. Unlike the old catalogues, it offers no credit: nobody is sold a debt.

5.2 What the catalogue covers

The catalogue lists products and services that are good for grandchildren's futures and for the community. The categories below are illustrative; the committee decides what goes in, and no company is named or favoured in this paper.

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Strand	Examples of what might be listed
In Them, On Them, Around Them (flagship)	Food and drink of known origin; water filters; safer cleaning, garden and personal-care products; clothing and play equipment free of harmful substances; air-quality monitors
Health and wellbeing	Healthy-eating, sport and outdoor activity for children; healthy-ageing services for grandparents
Learning	Books, tutoring, music and language lessons, coding clubs, educational trips, apprenticeship and trades taster courses
Financial security	Money education for children and families. Regulated financial products are excluded unless the firm and every recommendation meet financial-promotion law in full
Local food and business	Local farms, butchers, bakers, markets and independent shops; local tradespeople
Safety	Child car seats, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, cycle helmets, home-safety checks, online-safety tools
Nature and the outdoors	Growing kits, community orchards, outdoor learning, wildlife and conservation experiences

Table 5. The catalogue's strands. Illustrative categories only.

5.3 The Independent Expert Committee and the Seal

The committee is what makes the catalogue worth trusting. It is independent of SovereignOS™ and of every company it reviews.

- **Who sits on it.** Experts in children's health, nutrition, environmental health and toxicology, child safety, education, consumer protection and trading standards, with grandparent members alongside them.
- **How it decides.** Against published criteria for each strand. A product must be good for children's health or futures, honestly described, fairly priced and safe. For the flagship strand, it must reduce what is in, on or around children that is harmful.
- **How it stays honest.** Every member declares their interests, and nobody with a stake in a listed company may vote on it. Reasons for each decision are published. Listings are reviewed every year and can be removed at any time. Nobody can pay for a place, a ranking or a better position.
- **How it is funded.** Each applicant company pays the same published, cost-recovery vetting fee, whether it passes or fails. Grandparents and families pay nothing.



The Grandparent Renaissance Seal of Approval: for future generations.

Every product and service that passes carries the Grandparent Renaissance Seal of Approval. The idea is a familiar one. For generations, shoppers on both sides of the Atlantic have looked for the Good Housekeeping mark. In the United States, products bearing the Good Housekeeping Seal have been evaluated by the Good Housekeeping Institute to perform as intended, and carry a limited warranty: if one proves defective within two years, Good Housekeeping will refund or replace it [29]. In Britain, the Good Housekeeping Institute tests

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products against its own protocols and scores them out of 100, and brands may buy the GHI Approved logo only after a product has passed [30]. Those marks have earned the public's trust by testing whether a product does what it promises.

The Grandparent Renaissance Seal aims to go further still, by asking a different question: is this good for a child's long-term health and future? It differs in four ways. It is awarded by independent experts in children's health, safety and the environment, not by a publisher. Its criteria and the reasons for every decision are published. Nobody can pay for it: every applicant pays the same vetting fee, pass or fail, and there is no charge for carrying the Seal. And it can be withdrawn at any time if new evidence emerges. The Seal has no connection with Good Housekeeping; the comparison is offered only as a familiar reference point.

5.4 Paid direct: how the money flows

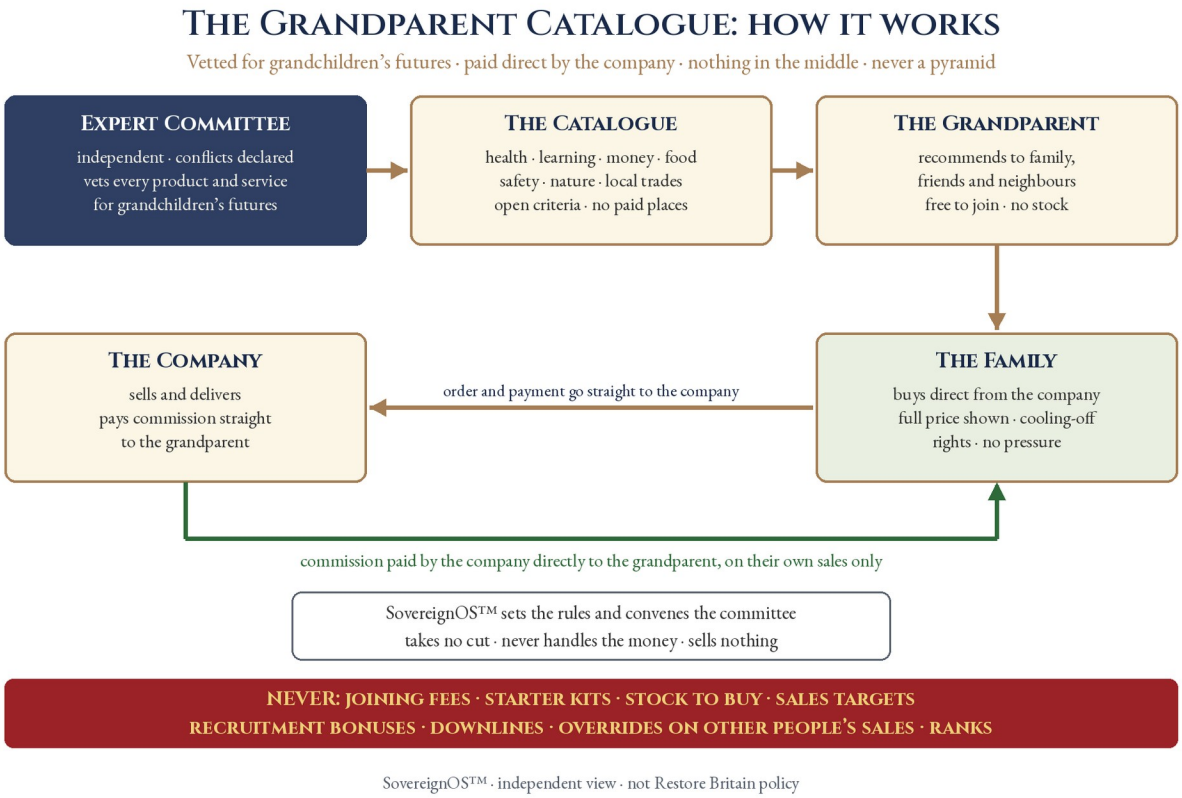

Diagram 1. The Grandparent Catalogue: the committee vets, the grandparent recommends, the family buys direct, and the company pays the grandparent directly. SovereignOS™ takes no cut.

The family buys directly from the company, at the published price, with all its normal consumer rights. The company pays a published commission directly to the grandparent who made the recommendation, on that grandparent's own sales only, with a clear statement. Every grandparent on the same product earns the same rate. SovereignOS™ is not in the middle: it does not sell, does not collect payments and takes no share of any commission. Grandparents who do not need the income can direct their commission to a local cause or to their Grandparent Circle.

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Why companies would welcome it (our judgement). A recommendation from a trusted grandparent is among the most valuable kinds of marketing there is, and the independent vetting gives buyers a reason to believe it. Companies pay only for sales actually made, reach three generations of a family at once, and are seen to support incomes for older people. For a small British firm with a good product, it can be the fastest honest route to customers across the country.

5.5 Never a pyramid

This is a service to retirees and those they love. It must never become multi-level or network marketing. The law already bans pyramid promotional schemes, in which people pay for the chance of earnings that come mainly from recruiting others rather than from selling products [9], and regulates trading schemes with more than one level of participants [31]. The No-Pyramid Charter (P66) goes further, and the direct-payment design makes a pyramid impossible to build: there is no upline to pay, because every commission goes straight from the company to the person who made the sale.

Always	Never
Free to join, free to leave, at any time	Joining fees, starter kits, training packs or paid 'memberships'
Commission only on the grandparent's own direct sales	Recruitment bonuses, or any reward for signing up other grandparents
One level: company to grandparent	Downlines, overrides or any earnings from other people's sales
Paid by the company directly, with a statement	Buying stock, holding inventory or 'qualifying' purchases
Products vetted by the independent committee	Sales targets, quotas, ranks, titles or minimum orders
Commission disclosed to every buyer	Income claims, 'be your own boss' promises or pressure on friends and family
Full consumer rights and cooling-off for buyers	Selling on credit, or any product the committee has not vetted

Table 6. The No-Pyramid Charter at a glance.

6. Earning, and being owed, without penalty

For grandparents who need an income, the rules should make honest small earnings simple and worthwhile.

- **Tax.** The trading allowance already lets anyone earn up to £1,000 a year of trading income tax-free, without telling HMRC in most cases [10]. Commission statements from each company make it simple to keep the records the allowance requires.
- **Pension Credit.** Pension Credit ignores only £5 a week of a single claimant's earnings (£10 for a couple; £20 in some cases); beyond that, earnings reduce the award almost pound for pound [32, 33]. That leaves the poorest pensioners with little reason to earn. P67 proposes a higher disregard for small self-employed earnings, so that work always pays.
- **Childcare credits.** Grandparents under State Pension age who look after a grandchild under 12 can receive the parent's weekly National Insurance credit, protecting their own State Pension. The claim needs a paper form signed by both, and can only be made after 31 October following the tax year [34]. Only 1% of grandparents have claimed [3]. P68 makes it automatic.

7. Grandparents and the Sovereignty Stack

SovereignOS™ looks at a nation as a stack of levels, each resting on the one below: the individual, the family, business, the community, the county, nature and the country. A nation is only as strong as its weakest level. Grandparents stand on every one of them, and their grandchildren inherit all of it. Diagram 2 shows where each proposal acts, and on which layer: bottom up, top down or middle out.

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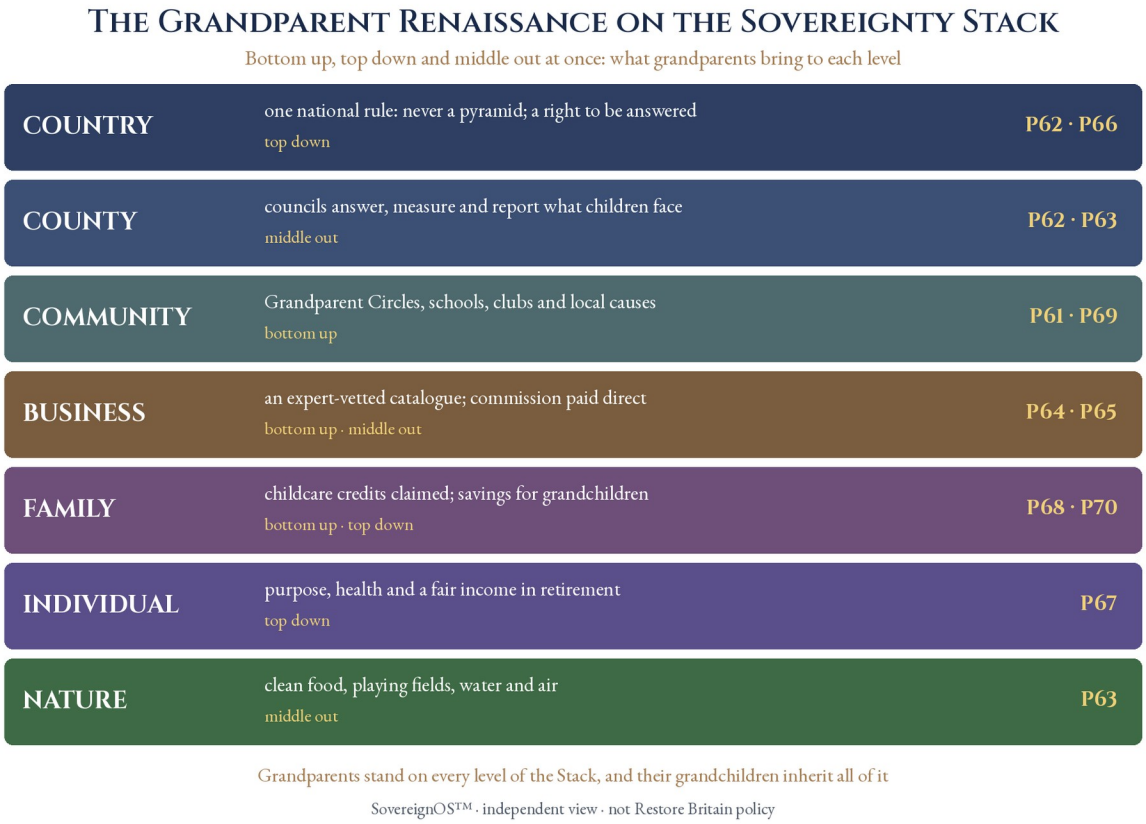

Diagram 2. The Grandparent Renaissance on the Sovereignty Stack: what grandparents bring to each level, and which proposals act there.

8. Proposals P61–P70

Numbered on from the sixty proposals in A Policy on the Policies [35]. Each is a PROPOSAL, not Restore Britain policy.

P61 Grandparent Circles (PROPOSAL) · bottom up

- **A Circle in every town.** Free, local, self-governing groups of grandparents, open to all, meeting in libraries, pubs, churches and village halls.
- **A toolkit, not a hierarchy.** A free open toolkit: how to choose a cause, gather the facts, write to the council and run a meeting. 'Measure first, then act.'
- **Purpose and friendship.** Circles also tackle loneliness: they are a reason to get out, meet others and be useful.

P62 The Grandparents' Call for Action (PROPOSAL) · top down, middle out

- **A right to a public answer.** When a set number of local residents sign a call on a matter affecting children's health, safety, learning or environment, the council, school trust or water company concerned must reply in public within a set time and meet the signatories.
- **Open to all.** The right belongs to every resident; grandparents are simply the people most likely to have the time to use it.

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P63 Know What's In, On and Around Them (PROPOSAL) · middle out

- **A yearly local report.** Each council publishes a short report on what children in its area face: where school food comes from, what is sprayed on council fields and parks, air quality outside schools and spills near bathing and play waters, using data that councils, the Environment Agency and water companies already hold.
- **Pesticide-free children's spaces.** Each council publishes what it applies to playing fields, parks and playgrounds, and a plan to make children's spaces pesticide-free, using the integrated pest management approach the UK National Action Plan already promotes [14].
- **Grandparent volunteers help.** Circles can help collect and check the facts, and the results join the national dashboard proposed in A Policy on the Policies (P8).

P64 The Grandparent Catalogue and its Independent Expert Committee (PROPOSAL) · bottom up, middle out

- **An open catalogue** under the Grandparent Renaissance Seal of Approval, of products and services good for grandchildren's futures, across the strands in Table 5, with In Them, On Them, Around Them as the flagship.
- **An independent committee** with published criteria, declared interests, published reasons and annual review, funded by an equal cost-recovery vetting fee from applicants (Section 5.3).

P65 Paid Direct, Nothing in the Middle (PROPOSAL) · bottom up

- **Company to grandparent.** Each company pays a published, equal commission directly to the grandparent who made the sale, with a statement. SovereignOS™ takes no cut and handles no money.
- **Choice.** Grandparents may keep their commission, or give it to their Circle or a local cause.

P66 The No-Pyramid Charter (PROPOSAL) · top down, middle out

- **Binding rules.** Every company and every grandparent signs the Charter in Table 6: free to join, one level only, commission only on one's own sales, no stock, no targets, no recruitment rewards, full disclosure.
- **Enforced.** A breach means removal from the catalogue. Every listed company's scheme must also comply with the existing law on pyramid and trading schemes [9, 31], and complaints go to an independent adjudicator.

P67 Fair Earnings in Retirement (PROPOSAL) · top down

- **Simple tax.** Keep the £1,000 trading allowance simple and well publicised for small commission earnings [10].
- **Work that pays.** Raise the Pension Credit disregard for small self-employed earnings above today's £5 a week [32], so the poorest pensioners keep a fair share of what they earn.

P68 Credit Where It's Due (PROPOSAL) · top down, bottom up

- **Automatic credits.** Replace the paper claim for Specified Adult Childcare credits [34] with a simple online nomination by the parent, so the credit follows the grandparent who does the caring.
- **Spread the word.** Circles tell every grandparent about it; only 14% know today [3].

P69 Grandparents in Schools (PROPOSAL) · middle out, bottom up

- **Teach what you know.** Reading, cooking, growing, local history, trades and money skills, taught by grandparents alongside teachers, with the safeguarding checks the law requires.
- **Masters and apprentices.** Retired tradespeople help train the next generation, alongside the trades apprenticeships proposed in Restoring the British High Street (P55).

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P70 Grandchild Bonds and Local Capital (PROPOSAL) · bottom up, top down

- **Grandchild Bonds.** Let grandparents buy Build Britain Bonds (P28 in A Policy on the Policies) in a named grandchild's favour, so savings for the future also build Britain [35].
- **Local capital.** Community share offers for local pubs, shops, farms and energy, so grandparents' savings work in their grandchildren's own town.

#	Proposal	What it does	Clusters	Layer
P61	Grandparent Circles	Free local groups with an open toolkit; purpose and friendship	FAM, CIT, LOC	Bottom up
P62	The Grandparents' Call for Action	A right to a public answer from councils, schools and water companies	CIT, LIB, HOU	Top down, middle out
P63	Know What's In, On and Around Them	Yearly local report on children's food, fields, air and water	HOU, NHS, EDU, CIT	Middle out
P64	The Grandparent Catalogue	Expert-vetted catalogue across seven strands; independent committee	LOC, FAM, NHS	Bottom up, middle out
P65	Paid Direct, Nothing in the Middle	Commission paid by the company directly to the grandparent	LOC, TAX, WEL	Bottom up
P66	The No-Pyramid Charter	Binding one-level rules; removal for breach; existing law applied	LAW, LOC, LIB	Top down, middle out
P67	Fair Earnings in Retirement	Simple tax; a higher Pension Credit disregard for small earnings	TAX, WEL	Top down
P68	Credit Where It's Due	Automatic National Insurance credits for grandparents' childcare	TAX, WEL, FAM	Top down, bottom up
P69	Grandparents in Schools	Grandparents teach skills, trades and reading in schools	EDU, FAM	Middle out, bottom up
P70	Grandchild Bonds and Local Capital	Bonds held for a grandchild; community shares	CAP, FAM, LOC	Bottom up, top down

Table 7. Ten proposals, each tagged by layer: bottom up, top down or middle out. Cluster codes are those of A Policy on the Policies.

How these connect to other papers (secondary). This paper stands on its own. Readers of the other SovereignOS™ companion papers will find that it widens the Grandparent Renaissance for British farming (P37) and Clean Food and Clean Childhoods (P38) in Rooted in British Soil [36], gives Prevention Starts on the Plate (P45) in A Healthy Nation its local volunteers [37], and links to the trades and community-ownership measures of Restoring the British High Street [38]. In the intersection matrix of A Policy on the Policies it adds three links not made before: Citizenship & Belonging to Health (CIT–NHS, P61, P63), Citizenship & Belonging to Housing, Land & Water (CIT–HOU, P62, P63) and Civil Liberties & Elections to Housing, Land & Water (LIB–HOU, P62).

9. Paying for it, and answers to the attack lines

Item	Cost to the taxpayer	Status
P61 Circles, P64 catalogue, P65 commissions, P66 Charter	None	Run by volunteers; committee funded by companies' vetting fees; commissions paid by companies
P62 Call for Action	Small administrative cost to councils	Not costed
P63 Local report	Small; uses data councils, the Environment Agency and water companies already hold	Not costed
P67 Pension Credit disregard	Some cost, offset by more pensioners earning	Not costed; needs DWP modelling
P68 Automatic childcare credits	Administrative change; some extra State Pension paid in future to people already entitled	Not costed
P69 Grandparents in Schools	Safeguarding checks	Not costed; small
P70 Grandchild Bonds	None beyond the Build Britain Bonds programme	Within P28

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Table 8. Honest fiscal summary. Most of the programme is funded by companies, not taxpayers; the items marked 'not costed' need official costing.

Attack line	Answer
'This is network marketing by another name.'	No. There is one level only: company to grandparent. No joining fee, no stock, no targets, no recruitment reward and no earnings from anyone else's sales (Table 6). Pyramid schemes are already illegal [9]; the Charter bans even the features the law allows.
'Grandparents will pressure their families.'	The Charter forbids pressure and income claims, every buyer sees the commission, and buyers keep full consumer rights. The old catalogue agents sold to people who trusted them; that trust is the whole point, and it is protected.
'Companies will capture the committee.'	Members declare interests and cannot vote on companies they have a stake in; criteria and reasons are published; no one can pay for a place; every company pays the same fee, pass or fail.
'SovereignOS™ is making money from pensioners.'	SovereignOS™ takes no cut, handles no money and sells nothing. Commissions go straight from the company to the grandparent.
'Pensioners should be resting, not working.'	Nobody has to earn anything. Many grandparents want purpose as much as income, and 25% of people aged 65–74 already volunteer every month [17]. The Renaissance offers a choice.
'This is scaremongering about chemicals.'	The rule is 'measure first, then act'. British food and water are well regulated; the aim is to make the facts visible and to act only where the facts show a problem.

10. Sources and caveats

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Caveats (all sources opened or re-checked on 27 November 2026)

- There is no official count of UK grandparents. The 14 million figure is a long-quoted estimate by the Grandparents' Association; DWP has quoted 11 to 14 million. We could not open the Grandparents' Association's own original statement and cite it through Aviva (2011) and SunLife (2023).
- The SunLife figures come from online surveys of about 2,000 grandparents. The 2026 average of £1,659 covers childcare-related costs; the 2023 figure of £79.57 a week covers a wider set of spending, so the two are not directly comparable. The national totals (£46bn, £96bn, and more than £140bn combined) are SunLife's extrapolations using the 14 million estimate, and the £96bn values unpaid childcare at market rates. They indicate scale, not official statistics.

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- The J.P. Morgan figures (42% saving, £154 each, £2.4bn; help with deposits, weddings and cars) date from a 2013 poll of more than 1,000 grandparents and are flagged as dated.
- The obesity figure is for England (Year 6, 2024/25); the storm-overflow figures are for England (2025) and fell mainly because 2025 was drier; volunteering figures are for England. Health, education and water policy are largely devolved.
- The mail-order history draws on the BBC, the Telegraph & Argus, Accountancy Age (1997) and the Oxford University Press history of the industry. The 10% commission and the figure of about 20 customers per agent are Accountancy Age's description of the traditional model.
- Council pesticide figures (354 tonnes; 47% of responding councils pesticide-free on playing fields; about 50 councils entirely pesticide-free) come from Pesticide Action Network UK, a campaign group, using Freedom of Information replies; they are labelled as such. Government sources (the National Action Plan, HSE, Parliament) and council sources are used for policy, approval status and examples. Glyphosate's GB approval runs to 15 December 2026 and may be extended; the position should be re-checked at publication.
- The Good Housekeeping facts are taken from Good Housekeeping's own US and UK pages. The Grandparent Renaissance Seal has no connection with Good Housekeeping. The campaign in Table 1 is illustrative.
- Nothing in this paper is legal advice. Any listed company's scheme must comply in full with consumer, trading-scheme, data-protection and financial-promotion law.
- Proposals P61–P70, the committee design, the fiscal judgements and the answers to attack lines are SovereignOS™ suggestions and analytical judgements, not sourced statistics or Restore Britain policy. None has been costed in detail.

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