



## CENTRE FOR POLICY ON AGEING

### Supporting practice and research on ageing and older age

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**THE CENTRE FOR POLICY ON AGEING**, established in 1947 by the Nuffield Foundation, has a long and distinguished record as an independent charity promoting the interests of older people through research, policy analysis and the dissemination of information.

The Centre aims to raise awareness of issues around all aspects of ageing and to support good practice. Its overarching focus is to discover and advocate what older people themselves want and need.

An important and unique aspect of the Centre's work is to act as a hub to encourage the creative exchange of thinking and information on ageing issues. A key element of this work is making knowledge on ageing issues widely accessible to share learning and underpin policy initiatives for the benefit of all older people. CPA collaborates with national and local government, practitioners, the academic community, voluntary groups and older people to sustain a network of learning around ageing.

**Information and Library Service** – The CPA Information Service collects, summarises and disseminates research evidence and good practice for users in all sectors through a unique group of online databases and customised services so that information on a wide range of topics can be accessed quickly and accurately. The Centre has built up an unrivalled international reference collection comprising books, policy reports, government publications, official statistics, journals and grey literature to develop a unique source of knowledge on issues around the care, wellbeing and quality of life of older people that is freely accessible. It is currently the only organisation in the UK systematically collecting and disseminating information on ageing.

**Policy and Research** – CPA's policy and research work covers a broad range of issues having an impact on ageing and old age, including health and social services, residential and community care, age discrimination and equality, financial inclusion, living arrangements, citizenship, and rights and risk. In particular it is concerned with the analysis of public policy as it affects older people, research into related issues and the promotion of good practice in service design and provision.

**Publishing** – CPA Publishing produces books, reports, briefing papers, codes of practice, occasional papers and selected reference titles from the Information Service.

**Networks** – The Centre works in partnership to influence policy and encourage debate on issues affecting older people. It is engaged with many statutory and voluntary groups concerned with older people and is represented on advisory groups, expert working parties and forums covering diverse topics.

## Information Resources

- **AgeInfo** is a key information resource on ageing and older age that provides three searchable databases: bibliographic, organisations and calendar of events. AgeInfo is the backbone of the CPA's information service and it is regularly updated with materials from a wide range of sources. All material on the bibliographic database can be accessed at the CPA reference library ([www.cpa.org.uk/ageinfo](http://www.cpa.org.uk/ageinfo))
- **NDAR – the National Database of Ageing Research** aims to be a fully comprehensive online source of recent and ongoing research within the UK on all non-medical aspects of ageing and older age with links to the researching organisation. ([www.cpa.org.uk/research](http://www.cpa.org.uk/research))
- **The Single Assessment Process/Common Assessment Framework for Adults online learning and development resource** holds a wealth of material to assist multi agency working including a glossary of terms and a national discussion forum. The materials, many of which are downloadable documents, focus on practice and change with respect to joint working, assessment and health/social care conditions of older people. ([www.cpa.org.uk/sap](http://www.cpa.org.uk/sap))
- **Interactive Glossary of Health, Social Care and Information Technology** (including Long Term Conditions) explains the terms used by health and social care agencies when working with adults. Its aim is to assist multi agency training and help communication between staff from a variety of agencies. Each term on the online glossary contains links to provide further information on each topic through fact sheets, other web sites, term-specific google searches and links to the CPA SAP resource. ([www.cpa.org.uk/sap/glossary](http://www.cpa.org.uk/sap/glossary))
- **The CPA/AgeInfo** website provides access to databases, national policy initiatives on ageing, information resources, and links to organisations whose work is focused on ageing ([www.cpa.org.uk/ageinfo](http://www.cpa.org.uk/ageinfo))
- **Policies on Ageing** is an online resource providing easy access to government policy documents, and key national reports and briefings that are raising the profile of issues around the support of older people and an ageing population. ([www.cpa.org.uk/cpa/policies\\_on\\_ageing](http://www.cpa.org.uk/cpa/policies_on_ageing))
- **Social Policy and Practice (SPP) database** provides evidence-based social research in such topics as public health, social care, homelessness and housing, crime and law and order, families, children and older people, and public and social policy, among others. CPA worked in partnership to develop available from Ovid Technologies (the SilverPlatter online platform).
- **New Literature on Old Age** is a digest of what's new with abstracts, published in printed form six times a year, available on annual subscription from the Centre.
- **Ageing & Society** is the official journal of the Centre for Policy on Ageing and the British Society of Gerontology (BSG) and one of the foremost scholarly journals in the field of gerontology, published by Cambridge University Press.

## **Influencing Policy and Research**

### ***Recent and Ongoing Projects***

- **Financial Exclusion of Older People and Daily Money Management Programmes** – The Nationwide Foundation is funding a three year project for CPA to research practical ways to prevent the financial exploitation and abuse of older people. Using the research findings, CPA will establish pilot projects to train volunteers to work with older people testing the viability and ways to implement Daily Money Management Programmes. This will help improve financial capability and deliver practical, sustainable, daily money management services to older people needing support to manage their day to day financial matters.
- **Financial Needs of Black and Minority Ethnic Older People** – CPA is assisting the Runnymede Trust to research the specific housing and financial needs of black and minority ethnic (BME) older people to inform and facilitate change in public policy. The project is funded by the Nationwide Foundation as part of their programme to tackle financial exclusion of older people.
- **Age Discrimination in Secondary Health Care, Primary and Community Health Care, Mental Health Services and Social Care in the UK** – The Department of Health commissioned CPA to undertake reviews from the literature to provide evidence of age discrimination in health and social care services to support the Equality Bill (April 2009) and related secondary legislation. The Centre participated in the National Advisory Group helping the government to take forward the age equality agenda. ([www.cpa.org.uk/information/reviews/reviews](http://www.cpa.org.uk/information/reviews/reviews))
- **Independent Living Resource for Disabled Older People** – In partnership with NDTi (the National Development Team for Inclusion) on behalf of the Office for Disability Issues (ODI), the CPA created and hosts a web resource for professionals to support independent living by disabled older people. ([www.independentlivingresource.cpa.org.uk/ilrop-home](http://www.independentlivingresource.cpa.org.uk/ilrop-home))
- **South East Regional Initiative on Independent Living for Older People with High Support Needs – Qualitative research and analysis** – In partnership with NDTi on behalf of ODI, CPA is carrying out a critical review of best practice and providing web-based support and facilities for sharing and dissemination of information arising from the fieldwork in four sites.
- **Older People's Vision of Long Term Care – The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)** – JRF's Independent Living Committee commissioned CPA and OPP (the Older People's Programme now part of NDTi) to explore older people's experiences of living with high support needs, focusing on those moving to and living in care homes now, and using other kinds of supported accommodation or living arrangements (e.g. extra care and adult placement schemes). The final report was published by JRF in November 2009

- **Practicalities and Possibilities: Person Centred Thinking with Older People** – CPA worked with OPP (now part of NDTi) and Helen Sanderson Associates on an 18 month development programme designed to initiate and support eleven small scale projects to apply the principles and practices of self directed support with and for older people who need support to live their lives.
  - **Representation of Older People in Ageing Research** – The Centre for Ageing and Biographical Studies at the Open University and CPA co-host seminars to examine methods of research on ageing and the papers are published for wider distribution. Recent seminar topics covered ‘Imagining futures’, ‘Secondary analysis and reusing archived data’ and ‘Co-production, participation or what? Critical perspectives on participatory research involving older people’.
  - **Literature reviews** – The Centre undertakes reviews from the literature drawing on its in-house information resources. Past reviews include: ‘The financial abuse of older people: a review from the literature’, carried out on behalf of Help the Aged; ‘The likely costs and benefits of legislation to prohibit age discrimination in health, social care and mental health services’, a review carried out on behalf of the Department of Health plus a further four reviews on age discrimination in health and social care to provide evidence to support the Equality Bill (April 2009).
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For further information about the Centre for Policy on Ageing contact the Director,  
Gillian Crosby, email [gcrosby@cpa.org.uk](mailto:gcrosby@cpa.org.uk)

## Centre for Policy on Ageing

25-31 Ironmonger Row, London EC1V 3QP  
Telephone +44 (0)20 7553 6500  
Facsimile +44 (0)20 7553 6501  
Email [cpa@cpa.org.uk](mailto:cpa@cpa.org.uk)  
Website [www.cpa.org.uk](http://www.cpa.org.uk)