



CENTRE FOR POLICY ON AGEING

Supporting practice and research on ageing and older age

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 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 and Alliances – 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 and alliances concerned with older people and is represented on advisory groups, expert working parties and forums covering diverse topics.

Information Resources

- **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)
- **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)
- **AgeInfo** database is a key information resource on ageing and older age. 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 (ageinfo.cpa.org.uk)
- **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)
- **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 has worked in partnership with IDOX, NCB, NSPCC and SCIE to develop this database which is available from Ovid Technologies.
- **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

- **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)
- **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 hosted a web resource for

professionals to support independent living by disabled older people.
(www.independentlivingresource.cpa.org.uk/ilrop-home)

- **Older People's Vision of Long Term Care – The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)** – JRF's Independent Living Committee commissioned CPA and 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).
 - **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'.
 - **Research and Literature reviews** – The Centre undertakes commissioned reviews. Recent examples include, Loneliness and the effectiveness of prevention interventions; Pharmacy reviews in the community; The prevention of urinary tract infections; Wellness interventions and their effectiveness, Exercise-based cardiac rehabilitation for heart failure; Changing family structures and their impact on the care of older people; Resilience and recovery in older age; The effectiveness of care pathways; Using housing and other assets to pay for care; and The potential impact of new technologies.
 - **Calls for Evidence** – A recent example has been a call for evidence, commissioned by LGA, on what local authorities are and should be doing, strategically, for their older populations. This work included a sample review of the extent to which local authorities had an older age strategy.
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