



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 challenges of an ageing population are frequently voiced but the positive aspects of living longer are less well addressed and recognised within society. The Centre aims to raise awareness of issues around all aspects of ageing, influence the development of policies to enable older people to live their lives as they choose as active members of society, and to support good practice in all spheres. CPA's overarching focus since its inception has been on empowering older people to shape their own lives and the fundamental touchstone of its approach 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 is to ensure that information on all aspects of ageing is widely accessible to share good practice, develop person centred services and underpin policy initiatives for the benefit of all older people. It works closely with national and local government, practitioners and the academic community to sustain a network of shared learning around 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 exclusion, living arrangements, transport, 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. CPA has extensive links with practitioners in many fields and over the years it has built up a reputation for innovative thinking around ageing issues. CPA is particularly well known for its pioneering work in residential care.

Information Services – The Centre makes available timely, reliable and relevant information to all those concerned with ageing and older age matters. The proactive 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. Over the years 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. Its ultimate purpose is to ensure that research on ageing is used to the benefit of older people.

Publishing – CPA Publishing produces books, reports, briefing papers, codes of practice, occasional papers and selected reference titles from the Information Service to share findings from its work. All materials reflect CPA's established reputation for quality and constructive thinking.

Networks – The Centre works in partnership with government, voluntary organisations, practitioners and academics to influence policy and encourage debate on issues affecting older people. It attaches great importance to its networks and alliances within the field of ageing, which are maintained through its members and also the advisory groups and committees that it is represented on.

About CPA's work

The Centre has always recognised that ageist attitudes need to be tackled in a robust way if choice and self determination are to become a reality for older people. Over its sixty+ year history, the Centre for Policy on Ageing has made a significant contribution in changing cultural attitudes towards ageing and the perception of older people from being a passive recipient of care to that of a citizen, with rights as well as responsibilities.

CPA is particularly well known for its work around residential care including landmark codes of practice *Home Life* and *A Better Home Life*. The Centre also championed advocacy for older people and produced another seminal code of practice, *Citizen Advocacy with Older People: A Code of Good Practice*.

Information Resources

- **AgeInfo** is a key information resource on ageing and older age that provides three searchable databases: bibliographic, organisations and calendar of events, with monthly updates. AgeInfo is the backbone of the CPA's information service and it is continually updated with materials from a wide range of sources. Information is extracted and restructured in various ways to suit the specific needs of client groups. The Information Service draws on AgeInfo to provide resources for the Social Care Institute of Excellence, the Social Policy and Practice Database, publications, readings and reviews, and to support research projects.
- **NDAR – the National Database of Ageing Research** is a freely available online resource established by the Centre. NDAR aims to be a fully comprehensive 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. The intention is to make research activities easily accessible to researchers and users of research, and to develop a network of shared learning. The database contents are drawn from research projects, both internally and externally funded, being carried out within the academic sector; voluntary and independent sector; local and central government;

independent 'think tanks'. The subject areas are wide ranging covering health and social care; pensions, work and retirement; social exclusion; poverty; European initiatives; demographics; housing; transport; residential care; independent living; quality of life issues, and more. (www.cpa.org.uk/research)

- **The Single Assessment Process/Common Assessment Framework for Adults online learning and development resource.** CPA is involved in promoting a more person- or relationship-centred approach to service provision by continuing to build a resource commissioned by the Department for Health for sharing learning and practice around implementing the Single Assessment Process (SAP). 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. The resource, which is freely accessible, holds a wealth of material to assist multi agency working including a glossary of terms and a national discussion forum. The aim is to provide access to information, in all its various forms, that can be shared across localities, organisations and individuals to support work, share good practice and reduce duplication of effort. The resource is updated to reflect new issues and practice and to help practitioners, carers and older people themselves have the information needed to move towards a Common Assessment Framework (CAF). (www.cpa.org.uk/sap)
- **Interactive Glossary of Health, Social Care and Information Technology** (including Long Term Conditions) with links to websites and fact sheets. The glossary has been developed to explain some of 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. The glossary may also be useful to explain concepts and processes to individuals and carers practitioners work with, so supporting them in decision making and self management. Some of the more traditional terms used by health and social care agencies are included, as well as new ones relating to the NHS Care Records Service and long term conditions. 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)
- **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, and lists CPA briefing papers to include Ageism and Age Discrimination in Health and Social Care in the UK; The Financial Abuse of Older People; Person Centred Care and SAP/CAF for Adults; Older People's Vision for Long Term Care; Self Directed Support and Individual Budgets; and Eliminating Age Discrimination in Health and Social Care. (www.cpa.org.uk/ageinfo)
- **Social Policy and Practice (SPP) database** - CPA worked in partnership to develop the Social Policy and Practice database available from Ovid Technologies (the SilverPlatter online platform). The 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. The database offers over 200,000 abstracted bibliographic records and contains a significant number of unique references to hard to access literature — semi-published reports, working papers, local and central government reports, and material from the voluntary sector and charities.

- ***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.
- **The CPA reference library** comprises over 50,000 items on older age and is staffed by qualified information specialists who can assist library users with their research strategies.
- CPA supports the development of Social Care Online at the Social Care Institute for Excellence and is represented on its Reference and Advisory Group.

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 research will explore current and future trends around housing in later life, pension provision and the implications of expectations from the extended families of BME groups. 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 that will set out details of the new age discrimination ban in the provision of goods and services. The CPA reviews informed the national review on age discrimination led by Sir Ian Carruthers and Jan Ormondroyd (May-October 2009). The Centre participated in the National

Advisory Group helping the government to take forward the age equality agenda.
<http://www.cpa.org.uk/information/reviews/reviews.html>

- **Taking Charge: Enabling Older People to Choose Self-Directed Support** – This is a major project, commissioned by the Department of Health, to introduce to older people the self-directed support model developed by in Control for disabled people. The project includes developing a web-based resource to share good practice; fieldwork providing practical training sites to enable older people to understand the concept of self-directed support and pass on their knowledge to other older people; and sharing learning from field sites nationally. The emphasis is on reaching sections of older people who may benefit from using self-directed support but who may not have easy access to such support by virtue of their ethnic group, isolated location or living arrangements.
- **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 designed, created and hosts a web resource for professionals to support independent living by disabled older people.
<http://independentlivingresource.cpa.org.uk/ilrop-home.html>
- **Access to Independent Advocacy** – The Centre provided support to the Norah Fry Research Centre for a literature review and scoping study.
- **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 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 published by JRF in November 2009 draws together all sections of the project – fieldwork, interviews, sounding board event, scoping study and response to a call for information.
- **Practicalities and Possibilities: Person Centred Thinking with Older People** – CPA worked with OPP (now NDTi) and Helen Sanderson Associations 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. CPA developed and hosts a Practicalities and Possibilities website. Development work on the website has included setting up a blog for participating members to share experiences and practice and discuss developments in their localities.
http://www.cpa.org.uk/PandP/PandP_home.html

- **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 cover ‘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).
- **The Forum for Older People in Prison** – CPA is a participating member of the Forum for Older People in Prison which was convened to address the needs of older people in prison. It regards current policy to transfer healthcare responsibilities to PCTs, and implementation of SAP/CAF in the prison environment, as a potential avenue to improve the situation regarding the health and social care of older prisoners. It has resolved to support the successful implementation of this process.

Networks

The Centre is engaged with many statutory and voluntary groups concerned with older people including In Control; Older People’s Advocacy Alliance; and the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education. It contributes to policy debates on ageing issues and services for older people with government departments, including work and pensions, health, and communities and local government. The Centre represented by the Director is a member of the newly formed UK Advisory Forum on Ageing, the ‘Assessment and Care Planning Collaborative’ to support the development of a Common Assessment Framework and worked within the Opportunity Age Strategy Partnership Group and sub committees including education, rural affairs and employment coordinated by the Department for Work and Pensions. Centre staff are active on advisory groups and committees including the National Working Group of the Older People’s Advocacy Alliance; and the Older People Policy Group at the National Council for Palliative Care.

For further information about the Centre for Policy on Ageing contact the Director,
Gillian Crosby, email 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 Website www.cpa.org.uk