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Care and Compassion? - Health Service Ombudsman's report. Is this further evidence of ageism and age discrimination in health and social care in the UK.

The Health Service Ombudsman, Ann Abraham, has published 'Care and Compassion?' a report to Parliament outlining 10 cases of poor treatment of older people in the NHS. There is evidence that, while care in the health service can often be very good, older people are too often treated with far less dignity and respect and receive poorer standards of care than younger patients.

Gillian Crosby, the Centre's Director said 'This report is a sad and damning indictment of both our society and of the NHS. Older people comprise the largest group of users in the NHS, and 39% of all people aged 65+ have a limiting longstanding illness, yet many of their health needs go unmet. We will continue to work with others to support the implementation of equality legislation to root out discriminatory policies and practice and to change harmful ageist attitudes towards older people.'

End

Contd with Notes/

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Notes

1. In preparation for the 2010 Equality Act, the Centre for Policy on Ageing was commissioned by the Department for Health to gather evidence of ageism and age discrimination in health and social care.

2. The four reviews collate a wealth of evidence of some direct and overt age discrimination but mostly examples of indirect, and covert discrimination affecting the quality and range of services available to older people:
 - Ageism and age discrimination in primary and community health care in the United Kingdom
 - Ageism and age discrimination in secondary health care in the United Kingdom
 - Ageism and age discrimination in mental health care in the United Kingdom
 - Ageism and age discrimination in social care in the United Kingdom

The four reviews are available to download from the CPA website
<http://www.cpa.org.uk/information/reviews>