



1947
Celebrating 60 Years
2007



Centre for Policy on Ageing
Annual Review 2005/06

Going on sixty

In 1947 this charity began life as the National Corporation for the Care of Old People. It was effectively the agency that justified the Nuffield Foundation's commitment to older age, making grants to that end and generally fighting the case for the old age pensioner. It was established as an adjunct to the Welfare State, with its laudable aim of guaranteeing a decent subsistence, on a national basis, to all those suffering from some degree of social distress.

Some thirty-five years later, as the charity developed in strength and knowledge and the parameters of old age altered, we transposed ourselves into a think-tank concerned with the social issues of older age – the Centre for Policy on Ageing. Twenty-five years on, and the charity celebrates sixty years of, despite some vicissitudes, successful activity.

For a mix of demographic and socio-economic reasons, familiar to the well-versed readers of these pages, the quantitative change in these sixty years has been enormous. The proportion of those in the UK population over 60 has nearly quadrupled from 6% to something approaching 23 or 24%. Qualitatively, there has been less relative change. If one takes the fundamental criterion of wherewithal, a rough estimate would suggest that, by normative measures, about 3m older people are now in poverty – and about 1.5m older people are well-to-do. Similarly, other issues to do with health and welfare remain unremedied, although it is always worth reminding ourselves that, like poverty, these are often problems that run throughout the generations and are by no means solely the lot of older people.

A significant shift has been in the perception of older age, not least with the growing acceptance of the Third Age – and there are about 12m Third Agers in the UK – as a descriptor of the phenomenon. In a phrase, this

has meant some transformation, by no means complete, from the portrayal of the older person as a social casualty to that of a citizen. In a word, it is a positive, not a negative view.

“The Centre for Policy on Ageing is a treasure trove of information about older age.”

It chimes in with a general conception of people as customers rather than clients of public services. The major political parties seem to be in accord in this view of a more personal, needs-based domestic economy. The 1940s Welfare State, itself in part the child of ‘wartime socialism’, with its rightful emphasis on fair shares, rationing and central controls, became heavily criticised for its bureaucratic heaviness and insensitivity. Sixty years on, and the calls have been for more flexible services. Personal choice has become the mantra of the 21st century.

The whirligig of competing choices that are viewed as necessary to ensure that everyone obtains what they want leads to the sorrowful truth that with choice there must be waste. No system, therefore, is ideal, but if we are to accept the notion of the responsible older citizen, geared up to act wisely in a dizzying orbit of decision-making about care, leisure and a dozen other matters, then there are realities to be faced. The prime one is that blind or blinkered choice is a restrictive and limiting experience. Research over the decades into the usage of welfare and health services has always demonstrated that know-how, the ability to work the system, has been advantageous.

Democracy is about informed choice. After money and health, information must, in public terms, be the most prized possession of the older person; indeed, it is one of the prime keys to getting the money and keeping the health. The Centre for Policy on Ageing is a treasure trove of information about older age. We are dedicated to the task of ensuring that this information, interpreted, updated, intelligible, is at the behest of Britain's older people that they might the more effectively realise their best potential.

Information has no placid, passive aspect. It is, or should be, at the sharp edge of the struggle to improve the life style of the nation's older generation. Our chief device, AgeInfo, is widely available to the professional and allied cadres, and it is our hope, that, increasingly, it will become more directly available to older people at large. In contemplating a hosting arrangement with the Better Government for Older People (BGOP) agency, we were acutely aware of its excellent lines of communication with groups of older people across the nation and in many local government areas. The welcome alliance of CPA's intensive information and BGOP's extensive field-coverage augurs well for the next generation of older people, as they strive to make sense amid a sometimes confusing swirl of competing options.

It has taken some time to reconstruct CPA and re-place it on the political map. It will take some time to realise these grand ambitions. But we shall get there.



Eric Midwinter
Chairman

Informed choice for a better old age

We are indeed living in times of change! Whilst we are reviewing the charity's work in 2005/2006 and also moving towards our sixtieth anniversary this year, the charity is about to welcome and host Better Government for Older People within its offices. CPA's relationship with BGOP began over ten years ago at a 1997 conference calling for interagency strategies for an ageing population, and it gives us great pleasure to reinforce our connections now.

The Centre's fiftieth anniversary publication *The Social Policy of Old Age* took stock of social policy at the start of a new Labour government and looked to the future. Welcome changes over the past ten years have included the ‘significant shift ... in the perception of older age’ as discussed by Eric Midwinter; this has been most clearly expressed in adult social care by the move towards older people being viewed as consumers of choice with the option to manage their

“Person centred approaches are ways of commissioning, providing and organising services rooted in listening to what people want, to help them live as they choose.”

own care through direct payments and individual budgets. CPA has for the past three years been involved in promoting a more person- or relationship-centred approach to care by continuing to build the resource commissioned by the Department for Health for sharing learning and practice for the Single Assessment Process. This resource is now being expanded to ensure that all practitioners, carers and older people themselves have the information needed for a successful move towards a Common Assessment Framework.

Elsewhere, our firm belief is that information is at the very heart of improving personal dignity and autonomy; the general wellbeing of all older people is manifest in our ongoing work towards building an information infrastructure described within this review. In the charity's first annual report (1948) it was stated that the then National Corporation for the Care of Old People should be used ‘as an information centre, a clearing house for all matters connected with the elderly’ and this led to the first national registers of research, the setting up of the reference library, the establishment of the journal *Ageing & Society*, numerous directories, a publishing imprint and latterly the databases on AgeInfo.

As information is at the core of the Centre's activities, we worked closely with the Department for Work and Pensions, prior to the 2005 launch of *Opportunity Age*, the first UK national strategy on ageing, seeking to ensure that the rhetoric about the importance of ‘evidence’ informing research, policy and practice was made a reality. A principal aim of CPA, since its inception sixty years ago, has been to develop a coherent national strategy for information provision and dissemination, which is properly resourced. We have, therefore, been involved in numerous

discussions about developing an Observatory type model focusing on ageing and old age as mentioned in *Opportunity Age*. Although this is a battle yet to be won, we hope that CPA's endeavours in this area will eventually find favour.

The Centre's project work has mirrored the policy shift towards enabling older people to have more choice and control in their lives. We are currently working in collaboration with the Older People's Programme on a number of projects in this area, including a Joseph Rowntree study on ‘older people's vision of long term care’ and we are delighted to have been awarded DH Section 64 funding for a project *Taking Charge* to train and sustain older people to take the lead on self-directed support. We have recently completed a literature review on the financial abuse of older people on behalf of Help the Aged.

Of course nothing at the Centre could be achieved without the hard work of its staff team, the support of the Chairman and Board of Governors, CPA's Members, funders and strong networks and alliances throughout the age sector. We are grateful to the estate of Olive Mary King for her bequest to sustain CPA's work. In my position as Director of the charity I offer my thanks to everyone as we look forward to celebrating our sixtieth year.



Gillian Crosby
Director

Creating an inclusive information network

› Promoting Positive Ageing

The Centre for Policy on Ageing, established in 1947 by the Nuffield Foundation, aims to promote debate on issues around ageing and influence the development of social policies through research and the dissemination of information in ways which further the interests of older people. In parallel with its programme of social research and policy analysis, the Centre has built up and continues to develop a unique collection of knowledge on issues around the care, wellbeing and quality of life of older people. 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.

“A principal aim of CPA, since its inception sixty years ago, has been to develop a coherent national strategy for information provision and dissemination, which is properly resourced.”

› Sharing Information and Good Practice

The Centre's ambition is to create a comprehensive, proactive information infrastructure to match and support new moves in policy and service. It is in the process of developing an easily accessible evidence base on ageing issues working in partnership with national and local government, voluntary organisations, practitioners and the academic sector. A key element of this work is AgeInfo – a unique collection of specialist databases on older age issues produced and maintained by CPA. This includes the National Database of Ageing Research (NDAR), recently re-established online, which will be complemented by ongoing research reviews, summaries of research and an alerting service flagging up new research projects. This essential service seeks to make available research evidence to demonstrate positive lessons learnt and feed into a wider ranging integrated strategy on ageing.

› Information Resources

AgeInfo

www.cpa.org.uk/ageinfo

AgeInfo consists of a range of easily searchable databases on older age issues, managed by information specialists at CPA. Updated monthly, AgeInfo provides access to data on ageing from books, journals, policy reports, government publications, official statistics and hard to access 'grey' literature. All material can be consulted at the CPA reference library. As well as the extensive bibliographic database, AgeInfo supplies information on organisations active in the field of ageing and events taking place in the UK and worldwide. The CPA AgeInfo website provides a gateway to further information resources on ageing.

Reference library

The CPA reference library is open to everyone. It comprises over 45,000 items on older age. The library offers modern study facilities with qualified information specialists who can assist library users with their research strategies. The library catalogues are available for searching online and a holdings list of journals is available on request. Please call CPA to make an appointment if you would like to use the library.

New Literature on Old Age

New Literature on Old Age is a handy digest of new publications on ageing, issued in printed form six times a year. The publications listed by subject area, with abstracts, have recently been added to CPA's library. CPA's full bibliographic collection can be accessed through AgeInfo.

The National Database of Ageing Research (NDAR) www.cpa.org.uk/research

The National Database of Ageing Research is a freely available online resource established by the Centre for Policy on Ageing and forms part of the Centre's developing evidence base on ageing.

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. The intention is to make current 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; and independent 'think tanks'. The subject areas are wide ranging.



The research details held on NDAR are collected by CPA information staff tracking and monitoring current research, and researchers entering and editing details of their own research projects. The database is fully structured and searchable and covers all aspects of the research. Researchers are invited to include their projects on the central database by going directly to www.cpa.org.uk/research or contacting CPA.

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.

SPP combines selected content of four major United Kingdom databases – AgeInfo from CPA; Acompline

from the Greater London Authority; Planex from IDOX plc (ex Planning Exchange) and Social Care Online from the Social Care Institute for Excellence. 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.

Copies of all the original documents cited are available from the British Library Document Supply Service.

› Single Assessment Process – Learning and Development

SAP online resource www.cpa.org.uk/sap

The Single Assessment Process (SAP) is a framework for delivering person centred care, regardless of health and social care boundaries. The Centre was commissioned by the Department of Health to create and host an online resource for health and social care professionals implementing SAP. The resource, which is freely accessible, holds a wealth of material to assist multi agency working including an interactive glossary of terms and a discussion forum. It collates examples of good practice and other useful reference materials and exclusively holds documents on SAP.

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 around SAP, share good practice and reduce duplication of effort. The resource is continually updated to reflect new issues and practice.

The project takes account of plans to extend SAP into a Common Assessment Framework for adults, requiring the NHS and Local Authorities to be able to support integrated multi agency working across all client groups. The CPA SAP website includes the following sections:

- learning and development materials, such as training packs; assessment tools; information sharing protocols; care plans and care pathways; videos/DVDs
- discussion forum
- examples of 'good practice' and innovation
- organisations offering training and practical resources
- interactive glossary of health, social care and information technology (incorporating long term conditions)

Glossary of health, social care and information technology (incorporating long term conditions) www.cpa.org.uk/sap/glossary

The interactive glossary explains a range of 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, 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 a topic through fact sheets, other web sites, term-specific google searches and links to the CPA SAP resource. The glossary is continually under review and regularly updated.

Earlier editions of this glossary were distributed through the work of the clinicians and practitioners from the health and social care communities in Hounslow and the North West London Sector Strategic Health Authority. The Pan London SAP Leads and then the NHS Care Records Service Single Assessment Process London & South Best Practice Process Design Group have since contributed ideas and entries to this updated version. Thanks to all of them.

‘Listen to What I’m Saying’

The DH appointed CPA as exclusive distributor of its training film on delivering person centred care, “‘Listen to What I’m Saying” – person centred care and the Single Assessment Process’. The film shows health and social care professionals working directly with individuals and their carers. There are no actors and no prepared scripts. It reveals what a difference a person centred approach makes to individuals with many and/or complex needs. More information is available at www.cpa.org.uk/sap

SAP conferences

CPA has supported Capita to deliver two conferences on the Single Assessment Process to help practitioners take

“CPA works in partnership to influence policy and encourage debate on issues affecting older people.”



forward issues around joint working; integrated care planning; person centred approaches to care; confidentiality and consent; and e-SAP – electronic information sharing. The conferences gave practitioners an opportunity to have a positive dialogue with DH policy advisers including members of CSIP (Care Services Improvement Partnership) on implementing SAP and the emerging Common Assessment Framework, and share their experiences with colleagues.

The Forum for Older People in Prison – and SAP

The Forum for Older People in Prison 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 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. The Forum is facilitated by Age Concern England and includes the Prison Reform Trust, the Inspectorate, Restore50Plus, the Centre for Policy on Ageing, Women in Prison, Nacro, the Howard League and several others.

› Working Together

CPA works in partnership with government, voluntary organisations and academics to influence policy and encourage debate on issues affecting older people.

The Centre 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 it is represented on. During the period under review, these included the Department of Health SAP Do Once and Share action group; the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education Older and Bolder advisory group; the Older People’s Advocacy Alliance, National Working Group; the Help the Aged partnership group on residential care ‘My Home Life’; the Age Reference Group for Equality and Human Rights; the advisory group for the Comic Relief Elder Abuse research project; the Older People Policy Group at the National Council for Palliative Care; and the advisory group for the UK Inquiry into Mental Health and Well-Being in Later Life – a three year project focusing on the promotion of good mental health in later life and looking at services and support for older people with mental health problems, and their carers.

The Centre contributed to the Common Assessment Framework policy collaborative convened by the Department of Health and is represented on the Department for Work and Pensions Opportunity Age Strategic Partnership Group and sub committees including education, rural affairs and employment. CPA supports Better Government for Older People, as a strategic partner, working together to ensure government agencies take into account older people’s experiences when planning services. BGOP is playing a major role in giving a voice to older people, through its Older People’s Advisory Group feeding information

Working alongside older people

into the decision-making process at local and national levels of government.

CPA continues to support the development of Social Care Online at the Social Care Institute for Excellence and is represented on its Reference and Advisory Group.

› Research on Ageing – Seminar Series with the Open University

With the Centre for Ageing and Biographical Studies at the Open University, CPA hosts seminars to examine methods of research on ageing and the papers are published for wider distribution. The seminars are extremely well attended and spark lively discussion. Participants from diverse disciplines demonstrate the vigour and quality of current research on ageing

“Of interest to researchers looking for innovative, inclusive and potentially empowering ways of researching alongside [older people].”

The British Journal of Social Work

The latest volumes published are *Language and Later Life* edited by Rebecca Jones and Andrew Clark and *Recruitment and Sampling: qualitative research with older people* edited by Caroline Holland. The last seminar topic was on ‘Oral History and Ageing’ chaired by Professor Joanna Bornat.

Reports of the seminars on ‘Age-Old Prejudices: Research with Older People in a Discriminatory World’, chaired by Richard Ward and Bill Bytheway and ‘Making Observations: Looking at Observational Methods in Gerontological Research’ chaired by Sheila Peace will be available in 2007.

Other published volumes in the series:

- *Biographical Interviews: The link between research and practice*, ed. Joanna Bornat
- *Involving Older People in Research. ‘An amateur doing the work of a professional’*, ed. Sheila Peace
- *Writing Old Age*, ed. Julia Johnson
- *Everyday Living in Later Life*, ed. Bill Bytheway

› Ageing & Society

Ageing & Society is the official journal of the Centre for Policy on Ageing and the British Society of Gerontology. It is an interdisciplinary and international journal devoted to the understanding of human ageing and the circumstances of older people in their social and cultural contexts. It draws contributions and has readers from many academic social science disciplines, and from clinical medicine and the humanities. In addition to original articles, *Ageing & Society* publishes book reviews, occasional review articles and special issues. We thank the editor, Professor Tony Warnes, all members of the editorial board and Cambridge University Press.

› ‘Ransackers’ – A Lifelong Learning Project



‘Ransackers’* is the official name of a bold educational opportunity for older people. The initiative – ‘an educational adventure for older people’ – was launched by BGOP as a UK pilot in Plater and Ruskin adult residential colleges in April 2004. The central principle of the scheme is that Ransacker students choose, with the help of tutors, a project of their own design drawing on their experience of life and work, and their concerns and interests in today’s world. There are no examinations or tests and each student has an individual supervisor who encourages development. Ransacker students live side by side with younger adults and this in itself is an enriching education from which both young and old benefit – a genuine intergenerational learning community.

The Ransackers project now unites three adult educational colleges, Ruskin in Oxford, Fircroft in Birmingham and Hillcroft (women only) in Surrey. The project is open to older people who have not previously benefited from further education; potential students need to have a commitment to learning and feel they have something to contribute to benefit the community.

Ransackers is a BGOP initiative. The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation supports the scheme and the Centre for Policy on Ageing provides administrative and practical help to the project, which is based in CPA’s offices.

*‘Ransacker’ – the Gaelic word rannsachadh meaning search, explore, scrutinise, discover, plunder etc

Summary Accounts

› Summary Balance Sheet

At 30 September 2006

	2006 £'000	2005 £'000
Net assets		
Fixed assets	132	164
Stock, debtors and cash	460	372
Creditors	(55)	(45)
Total net assets	537	491
Funds		
Balance at beginning of year	491	624
Net movement in funds	46	(133)
Total funds	537	491

› Summary Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 30 September 2006

	2006 £'000	2005 £'000
Income		
Donations and legacies	199	10
Charitable activities	220	213
Other activities to generate funds	30	27
Investment income	10	17
Total income	459	267
Expenditure		
Cost of generating funds	18	17
Charitable activities	368	357
Governance costs	27	26
Total expenditure	413	400
Net movement in funds	46	(133)

The summarised accounts, set out here, are not full statutory accounts but are a summary of information extracted from those accounts. The statutory accounts, on which the auditors have given an unqualified report, were approved by the Trustees on 9 February 2007 and have been submitted to Companies House and the Charity Commission. Reference to the full statutory accounts should be made for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity and copies are available from the Secretary at 25-31 Ironmonger Row, London EC1V 3QP.

Eric Midwinter Trustee Nigel Appleton Trustee

Networks, alliances and committees

- Age Reference Group for Equality and Human Rights
- Better Government for Older People, Advisory Group and Research Advisory Group
- British Society for Gerontology
- Coalition for Quality in Care
- Comic Relief Elder Abuse research project
- Department of Health SAP Do Once and Share Action Group
- Department for Work and Pensions, Opportunity Age Strategic Partnership Group

- English Community Care Association
- Forum for Older People in Prison
- Help the Aged, Communities Council
- London Centre for Dementia Care
- National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, Older and Bolder advisory group
- Older People's Advocacy Alliance, National Working Group
- The National Council for Palliative Care, Older People's Policy Group
- Older People's Programme

- Social Care Institute for Excellence
- Social Policy Ageing Information Network
- UK Inquiry into Mental Health and Well-Being in Later Life

Funders

Department for Work and Pensions
Department of Health
Help the Aged
Older People's Programme
Social Care Institute for Excellence

Who we are

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Eric Midwinter (Chair)
Nigel Appleton (Vice Chair)
Kate Davidson
Tessa Harding
Terry Philpot
Jim Soulsby

Staff

Director

Gillian Crosby

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Ruth Hayes
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