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CPA welcomes the Green Paper on adult social care

The Centre for Policy on Ageing welcomes the publication of the Department of Health's Green Paper, 'Independence, Well-being and Choice: Our Vision for the Future of Social Care for Adults in England'.

Gillian Crosby, CPA's Director, commented ' I welcome the government's vision for adult social care that puts the individual at the centre. It is right for people to be able to exercise control over their lives, have choices and live independently. However, we must not forget that many older people are frail and vulnerable with complex needs, and this section of the older population is increasing. The right mix of services must be available and this requires adequate resources.'

'I am particularly pleased that the focus is on outcomes. These outcomes, although broadly defined, will be important means of testing whether older people's needs are being met.'

'The challenge, of course, is to make the vision a reality. While increased voluntary care, IT and assistive technology can help, a properly trained workforce is central to delivering better care – whether as 'navigators' or actual carers – as the demand for social care increases. In a sector renowned for its skills shortage and difficulty in retaining experienced staff, the workforce issue cannot be ignored.'

'A positive start would be to harness the skills of older workers and provide adult career support which is a poor relation in the world of training, learning and human resource management.'

CPA looks forward to taking part in the consultation process and will submit a response to DH by 28 July.

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