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The Centre for Policy on Ageing supports the Government's vision for the future of health and social care

The Centre for Policy on Ageing welcomes the publication of the Department of Health's White Paper, 'Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services' published on 31 January 2006.

Gillian Crosby, the Centre's Director, commented ' The Government is developing a coherent strategy for the health and social care of our ageing population. This White Paper takes a radical approach by putting the individual at the centre offering choice and better access to services in the community. Health and social care provision must be responsive to the needs of the whole population on an equal basis. For too long older people have had to put up with second best as a result of strict eligibility criteria for services and restricted resources.

'The focus on active ageing and prevention of ill health is right. However, we must ensure that ill, frail and vulnerable older people are provided with the best care and support in the most appropriate setting to meet their needs. There are two key elements to achieving this vision – adequate resources and a change in cultural attitudes towards older people.'

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