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The Centre for Policy on Ageing commends the Wanless review on social care and older people

The Centre for Policy on Ageing commends the robust stance of Sir Derek Wanless's review of social care for older people, 'Securing Good Care for Older People: taking a long-term view', published on 30 March 2006.¹

Gillian Crosby, the Centre's director, commented. 'Sir Derek Wanless and the King's Fund team have made an invaluable contribution to our understanding of what is required to provide proper care for older people both in terms of better services and use of resources.

'The Wanless report on social care, the Turner review of pensions, the recent joint report² assessing services for older people and other government policy documents provide a huge body of evidence on the lives of older people now and the demographic pressures impacting on society over the next decades.

'Government, the media, professionals and the general public must realise the importance of acting now to plan for our ageing population and manage fundamental change. A consensus for action can only be achieved through genuine debate of the issues.

'The Centre strongly endorses the view that, following on from Opportunity Age,³ the Government needs to develop a cross Government national programme of work to help shape a more positive culture on attitudes to ageing.'⁴

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Notes

1. The King's Fund commissioned Sir Derek Wanless and his team to provide a comprehensive analysis of the demand for social care over the next 20 years, and consider whether there is a fairer and more cost-effective way of funding social care than the current means-tested system. The full report can be accessed via the Centre for Policy on Ageing's website www.cpa.org.uk/cpa/policies_on_ageing.html
2. *Living Well in Later Life: a review of progress against the National Service Framework for Older People*, a joint report of the Healthcare Commission, the Audit Commission and the Commission for Social Care Inspection was published on 27 March 2006. The report assesses progress in improving health, social care and local council services for older people in line with standards set out in the National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People and taking into account subsequent policy developments. The full report can be accessed via the Centre's website www.cpa.org.uk/cpa/policies_on_ageing.html
3. *Opportunity Age: meeting the challenges of ageing in the 21st century*, presented by the Department for Work and Pensions on 23 March 2005, is the first ever cross-government strategy to look specifically at the issues facing British society as people live longer, healthier lives. The full report can be accessed via the Centre's website www.cpa.org.uk/cpa/policies_on_ageing.html
4. A key recommendation of the report, *Living Well in Later Life*.

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