



Celebrating 60 Years

Press Release

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**The Centre for Policy on Ageing's response to the Government's
Comprehensive Spending Review, October 2007**

The Centre for Policy on Ageing supports the policy direction indicated in the government's Comprehensive Spending Review¹ to respond to demographic and socio-economic change, and rising expectations of public services. The goals of personalised care, empowering older people, choice and control, and promoting independence and well-being in later life are the right ones.² There is concern that the aspirations of older people today are not being met and the timetable for change is too slow.

Gillian Crosby, the Centre's Director said, 'We welcome the government's commitment to a Green Paper identifying key issues and options for reform of the care and support system for older people and all adults. There is already a huge body of evidence on the need for change and concrete proposals on how to achieve better outcomes for older people. We hope that the government will draw on this existing evidence as well as consulting widely with older people themselves.

'It is critical that the voices of older people are heard. Unless we have sought to understand the lifestyle aspirations of a rising generation of older people and have understood the facilities and services that will support that lifestyle through changing personal circumstances and requirements for support, any reform in the care system will be unsustainable.'

End.

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1. The Government's Pre Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review, October 2007 sets public spending to cover departmental allocations for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. The social care settlement is in two parts, the local government revenue grant allocated by DCLG and funding provided directly by DH. Building on increases in grants to local government of 39% in real terms over the last ten years, local government will get an average real terms increase to revenue support grant of 1% real per year. In addition, for social care, direct DH funding increases by an average 2.3% real per year. This delivers an additional £2.6bn by 10/11 to Local Authorities that provide social care, with an additional £190m by 10/11 for social care through DH. Access full details via CPA's website, policies on ageing http://www.cpa.org.uk/cpa/policies_on_ageing.html
2. The PSA Delivery Agreement 17: Tackle Poverty and Promote Greater Independence and Wellbeing in Later Life, October 2007 issued by the Department for Work and Pensions seeks to ensure that the specific needs of the older population are given due priority. It sets out the outcomes the Government seeks to achieve in the CSR period, providing a clear focus for planning and delivery by national and local service providers. A copy of this document can be found at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/0/0/pbr_csr07_psa17.pdf