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SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CARE TOGETHER

Green Paper outlines proposed changes to care and support system in England and launches the 'Big Care Debate'

Shaping the Future of Care Together, the Green Paper published by the government today, acknowledges that the care and support system in England needs a complete overhaul. It proposes a National Care Service based on rights and entitlements that will be fairer, simpler and more affordable for everyone. A key issue is how to fund an enhanced system that will meet the needs and aspirations of people in the 21st century. The government has launched the 'Big Care Debate' to try and build a consensus across generations on the way forward.

Gillian Crosby, the Centre's Director, said 'The government is to be commended for boldly presenting the choices that have to be made in order to provide care for a growing number of people who will need some form of support in their lives. While we welcome a debate – and there have been many on this subject – it is critical that reforms are supported on a cross-party basis and implemented with a clear timetable. Our concern is that the quality and range of services on offer will not be overlooked in the discussion on costs, and the Centre will be working to keep these firmly on the agenda.'

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Notes

1. Shaping the Future of Care Together, published on 14 July 2009 can be accessed via the CPA website http://www.cpa.org.uk/cpa/policies_on_ageing.html The Big Care Debate, which runs until 13 November 2009, can be accessed at <http://careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/>
2. The Centre for Policy on Ageing (CPA) is an independent centre for research and information serving policymakers, practitioners and researchers working on issues affecting older people. The Centre is currently assisting the national review of age discrimination in health and adult social care led by Sir Ian Carruthers, Chief Executive of the South West Strategic Health Authority, and Jan Ormondroyd, Chief Executive of Bristol City Council to inform implementation of the Equality Bill before Parliament.