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20 July 2010

THE CENTRE FOR POLICY ON AGEING LAUNCHES A REPORT ON THE FUTURE AGEING OF THE ETHNIC MINORITY POPULATION OF ENGLAND AND WALES

CPA and the Runnymede Trust released today a new report¹ estimating the ethnic make-up of the future population of older people in England and Wales. Strikingly, the report has found that by 2051 there will be 3.8 million BME people over 65, rising from 1.3 million in 2026, compared to only half a million in 2001. The implications are significant for public service planners at a local and national level looking ahead to the next 40 years. The report, *The Future Ageing of the Ethnic Minority Population of England and Wales* by CPA researcher, Nat Lievesley, was commissioned by the Runnymede Trust to contribute to their programme researching BME people and financial inclusion funded by the Nationwide Foundation.²

Gillian Crosby, the Centre's Director, said: 'CPA is very pleased to have been asked by Runnymede Trust to develop these population projections so that we all focus on the ageing of the ethnic minority population. A clear understanding of their needs and aspirations is critical to the development of public policies and services that incorporate the diversity of experience of older BME people. The ageing of ethnic minority groups over the next decades places an important duty on planners to provide appropriate social support, including housing and lifetime neighbourhoods. Local authorities need to address now the issues and gaps in services for ethnic minority older people, particularly in relation to their proposed new strategic commissioning role driving on the integration of health and social care and a new statutory responsibility on public health functions.³ We must also be vigilant in rooting out potential negative discrimination arising from a combination of ageism and racism based on stereotypical assumptions of how older people from ethnic minorities live their lives.'

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Notes

1. *The Future Ageing of the Ethnic Minority Population of England and Wales* by Nat Lievesley can be downloaded via the CPA website <http://www.cpa.org.uk/reportsandreviews> and the Runnymede website <http://www.runnymedetrust.org>
2. The Runnymede Trust commissioned the Centre for Policy on Ageing to develop a detailed forecast of the future older population, including the proportions of people from different Black and minority ethnic backgrounds as part of its financial inclusion programme funded by the Nationwide Foundation. In 2009, The Nationwide Foundation approved 10 grants totalling almost £3 million to help tackle the issues of housing and financial exclusion. The funding marked the start of the Foundation's new Investor Programme which will support the charities for three years. The Centre for Policy on Ageing is one of the charities to receive funding to research daily money management programmes for older people. Further details are available at http://www.cpa.org.uk/dmm/daily_money_management.html
3. Access details of 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', DH White Paper, published 12 July 2010 via the Centre's online resource 'Policies on Ageing' and for further information and links to documents and initiatives around ageing www.cpa.org.uk/cpa/policies_on_ageing.html
4. The Centre for Policy on Ageing aims to raise awareness of issues around all aspects of ageing. A key element of this work is making knowledge on ageing issues widely accessible to share learning and underpin policy initiatives to support older people. The Centre's information service disseminates research evidence and good practice for users in all sectors through a unique group of customised services. CPA has built up a vital source of knowledge on ageing issues and it is currently the only organisation in the UK systematically collating this data. Reliable information is essential to sustain more effective ways of working and better outcomes for older people. Access further details of CPA's information services at www.cpa.org.uk/information/information_services.html