

Older People, Independence and Support

.... after the Election

The *other* CPA

Centre for Policy on Ageing

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Don't ignore the context

- a demographic reminder
- Health independence and attitude
- Workforce issues

Health independence and attitude

- retirement does not equal dependence and ill-health
- many older people who have a limiting disability still describe themselves as healthy
- many who have difficulty in coping do not receive or welcome assistance
- little dignity for anyone in feeling dependent and the right support at the right time is vital

Workforce issues

- a quarter of the total public sector workforce is due to retire within 10 years
- only 8% are under 25 years old
- many advantages to employing older staff and considering workforce diversity
- older people can be involved carrying out essential training for SAP and also in carrying out the actual assessments

Agenda for Change

- set out by older people themselves
- addressing age discrimination and health inequalities
- addressing poverty and income levels
- a more integrated approach to delivering health and social care
- priority to linking housing and housing support with health and social care services

Government Policy

- **National Strategy**
[Opportunity Age: meeting the challenges of ageing in the 21st century]
- **Green Paper**
[Independence, Well-being and Choice: our vision for the future of social care for adults in England]
- **Social Exclusion Unit interim report**
[Excluded Older People: Social Exclusion Unit interim report]
- **National Service Framework**
- **Single Assessment Process**
- **Link-Age**

Key Issues

- **Financial security**
- **Work and retirement**
- **Rights and discrimination**
- **Independence and support**

Key Recommendations

- challenge ageism in all its forms - value the contribution that older people make to society
- address older people's needs and aspirations through a strategic central and local community approach that recognises and understands diversity
- focus on implementation of the new models of care – integrated services – collaborative working – a person-centred approach

Key Recommendations

- tackle the pensions crisis by seeking a consensus approach
- stop viewing ageing as a 'problem' defined only by increased numbers and a paternalistic model of welfare
- help people to live healthy lives so that increased life expectancy will be accompanied by a similar increase in years spent in good health

Key Recommendations

- make “choice” a reality for all - bridge the gap between the confident, well-educated and informed older people who are able to make choices and those facing poverty with less skills and confidence, for whom choice remains a dream

Retain the emphasis and focus on a person centred whole systems approach which recognises diversity and change.

Gillian Crosby
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