

Better policies and better lives changes in policy towards older people

– planning and providing services in the UK

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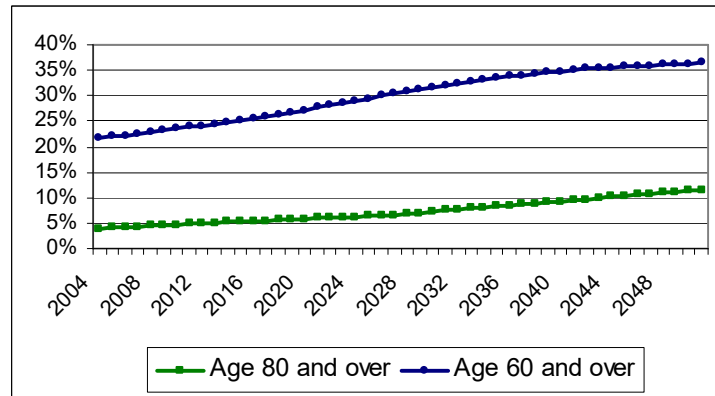
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Centre for Policy on Ageing

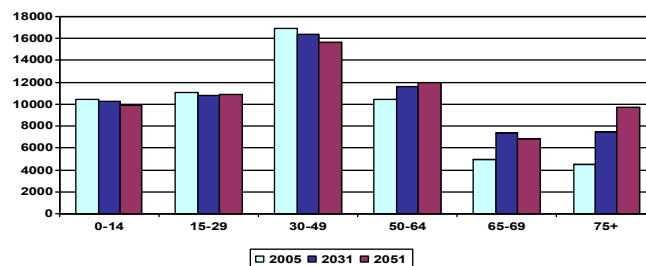
- A charity founded by the Nuffield Foundation in 1947
- London, UK – <http://www.cpa.org.uk>
- Policy and research – over 150 reports and publications
 - residential care
 - hospice care
 - day care services
 - dementia
 - poverty
 - religion and spirituality
- Information services
 - New Literature on Old Age
 - Ageinfo databases of literature, organisations and events
 - Single Assessment Process - resource for practitioners
 - NDAR (National Database of Ageing Research)

European Union (EU25) - projected population aged 60 and over and 80 and over as a percentage of total population – 2004 to 2051



Source: Eurostat, 2005

The Context: UK Population Projections by Age



In 1950, just over one in ten of the UK population was over 65. By 2005 this has risen to one in six. In another 50 years over a quarter of the population will be aged 65+.
At the same time, we will only see a negligible increase in the number of 20-64 years olds.

Source: UK Government Actuaries Dept.

Demographic changes in the UK

- **Declining numbers of children**, by 2007, there will be more people over state pension age than under 16
- **the age profile of the working population is shifting upwards** - by 2020 that there will be more working age people aged over 40 than below
- **Pensioners are getting older.** People aged 85 and over are the fastest growing cohort and will double in size by 2031 to approx 2.4 million, some 3.8 per cent of the population of Great Britain

Future Demand for Care

- *On the basis of no change in patterns of care or in dependency rates*, the number of older people in residential care homes and nursing homes in England is projected to rise between 2000 and 2020 by around **23%**, from around 375,000 to around 460,000. Most of this projected rise is in the second half of this period.
 - The projections of future demand for long-term care services are sensitive to assumptions about future levels of dependency. If dependency rates fell by 1% per year, for example, the projected number of older people in institutional care remains roughly constant between 2000 and 2020 despite the rising numbers of older people.
 - A shift in the balance of care from residential to home care reduces the projected increase in demand for residential and nursing home care.

Policy background in the run-up to the UK general election 2005 and beyond

- UK locked into a traditional welfare rationing approach
- structural divide between health and social care
- public services focus on the most vulnerable older people at times of crisis (15%)
- revised approach enables the wider older population (85%) to remain independent and live their lives to the full
- integrated approach to health and social care with emphasis on whole systems working

National Policy background documents and initiatives

- (in the context of devolved government)

- **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**

The framework

- older people at the heart of service provision
- needs led not service driven provision
- little dignity for anyone in feeling dependent
- the right support at the right time
- agenda for change...

Agenda for Change

- set out by older people themselves
- shift focus from dependency towards interdependence
- 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 services with health and social care services to enable more older people to remain in the community

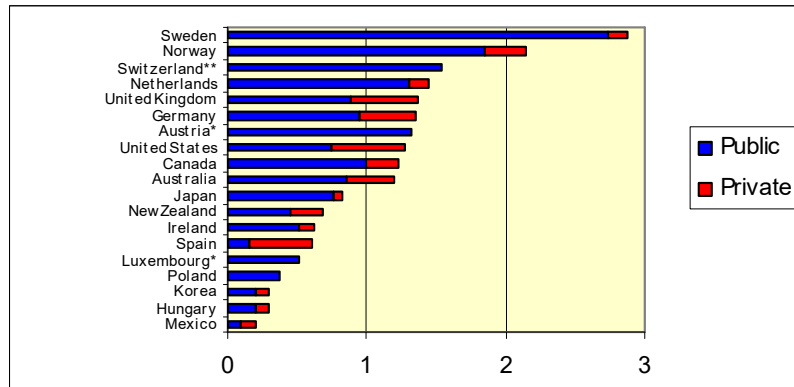
Policy into Practice

- examples of change
 - Single Assessment Process
 - Extra Care Housing
 - Community Matrons
 - Personalised Budgets
- importance of information, advice and advocacy
- good quality research is required to provide a sound evidence base for informed policy and practice

The Future

- Cultural shifts needed away from service and resource rationing towards service and resource choice
- Need to address age discrimination
 - age equality and rights based approach
 - Commission for Equality and Human Rights (UK)
- Resource implications
 - workforce issues including training
 - adequate pensions
 - cost of providing long-term care

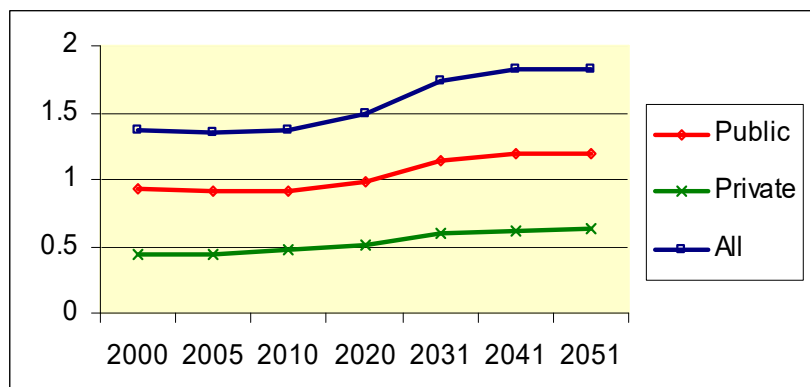
Public and private expenditure on long-term care as a percentage of GDP, 2000



Source: Long term care for older people, OECD, 2005

* = Public expenditure only included ** = Public/Private split not available

The cost of long-term care - projected UK expenditure as a percentage of GDP



Source: PSSRU and NCCSU model estimates, PSSRU, UK

Six core principles for a system of long-term care funding

Donald Hirsch, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2005

1. *Be fair and be seen to be fair* – in the way money is raised and allocated.
2. *Support preventative measures* – through a system that encourages early intervention, rewarding rather than penalising measures that reduce the amount of care needed .
3. *Recognise the diversity of needs and allow recipients of care to retain their dignity* – through the care provided and resources left to individuals after paying for their care.

Six core principles for a system of long-term care funding

Donald Hirsch, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2005

4. *Promote personal and family responsibility* – through an appropriate balance between family and State.
5. *Be sustainable* – by commanding general public support and by being responsive to demographic, medical, economic and other changes.
6. *Encourage an efficient supply response* – through adequate resourcing for a range of types of care.

Conclusion

- dignity, citizenship choice and control for older people are at the heart of the 'new' policy vision
- paying for care needs and providing proper pensions require a system that is adequate, fair and rational
- doing nothing is not a neutral option

Thank you for listening !

Gillian Crosby
CPA, October 2006