



ELDER CARE WORKING GROUP

Sara McKee (Chairman)

Sara McKee is Group Services Director of Anchor Trust. She was previously Group Commercial Director at A4e. Sara has over 20-years experience in commercial consumer-facing businesses, across a range of sectors including technology, retail, travel, training and employment internationally. Sara is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Stephen Burke

Chief Executive of Counsel and Care. Former Director of Daycare Trust

Harry Cayton OBE

Chief Executive of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence, Chair of the National Information Governance Board for Health and Social Care, Co-Chair of National Voices, Advisor to The Health Foundation and to Macmillan Cancer Support and a Trustee of Comic Relief. He was previously Chief Executive of the Alzheimer's Society (1992 – 2003) and Director of the National Deaf Children's Society (1981-1992). Former National Director for Patients & the Public at the Department of Health

Roger Davies

Chief Executive of MHA Care Group and a non-executive Board Member of English Community Care Association

Richard Furze

CEO of Friends of the Elderly. Previously worked at the Shaftesbury Society and as a Chartered Accountant at Price Waterhouse

Caroline Glendinning

Research Director (Adults, Older People and Carers) in the Social Policy Research Unit at the University of York, Trustee of the Thalidomide Trust and Chair of the UK Social Policy Association

Dr Nori Graham

Emeritus Consultant in the Psychiatry of Old Age at the Royal Free Hospital. Former Mental Health Consultant to Nightingale House, National Chairman of the Alzheimer's Society for England (1987 – 1994) and Chairman of Alzheimer's Disease International (1996 – 2002)

Caroline Greenhalgh

Policy researcher specialising in disability issues, a Governor of the Brompton and Harefield Foundation Trust, and a member of the London Committee of Human Rights Watch

Andrew Harrop

Director of Policy and Public Affairs at Age Concern and Help the Aged

Susan Kaye

Freelance Consultant, working for clients in areas including recruitment, training and strategic planning

Janet Morrison

Chief Executive of IndependentAge. Founder and former Deputy Chief Executive of NESTA, former senior adviser on UK Policy at the BBC (1997 – 1999), and former Director of Policy and Research at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

James Reilly

Director of Community Services for the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. Former Chair of the London region Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and co-Chair of the ADASS Older People's Network. Former member of the National Task Force on the Future of Social Work

Breakthrough Britain: Care for Older People

Key facts:

- The fastest growing age group is those aged 80 years and over, who currently constitute 4.5 per cent (2,749,507) of the total population. This age group has increased by over 1.1 million between 1981 and 2007 (1,572,160 to 2,749,507), from 2.8 per cent to 4.5 per cent.ⁱ
- In 2005 there were an estimated 11 million people of a state pensionable age –18.7% of the total population. By 2031, this figure is expected to rise to 15.3 million.ⁱⁱ
- 2.5 million pensioners (23%) live below the poverty line (£151 for single pensioners and £226 for a couple).ⁱⁱⁱ
- Nearly a quarter (23%) of single female pensioners has no savings at all. For single male pensioners, it is 20% and for pensioner couples, it is 14%.^{iv}
- Many pensioners in Local Authority care homes survive off the state's meagre Personal Expense Allowance of just £21 a week.
- The estimated number of households in fuel poverty in the UK rose between 2006 and 2007 by 0.5 million, to stand at around 4 million.^v
- £5 billion of pensioner benefits remain unclaimed each year.
- Experts warn that we are heading for a £6 billion funding gap in elder care in the next 20 years.
- A 65-year-old can expect to need care costing on average £30,000 during retirement.^{vi}
- A place in a care home in England costs an average of £24,000 per year while a nursing home places costs an average of £35,000 pa.^{vii}
- There is a great variation in both the quality and quantity of care provided by different Local Authorities. Launching a Green Paper on the state of social care in Britain,^{viii} Health Secretary Andy Burnham described the current situation as a 'cruel lottery'.
- There are between five and six million unpaid carers looking after a relative or friend.^{ix} Carers are currently saving the UK economy an estimated £87 billion a year.^x
- Clinical depression goes undiagnosed and untreated for 850,000 out of every 1 million elderly people – it is often brushed off by younger family members and even GPs as a symptom of old age that is to be endured rather than dealt with.^{xi}

Key areas for review:

Older people can be among the most vulnerable members of society. Isolation, loneliness, bereavement, depression, failing health and immobility are some of the debilitating issues that affect elderly people. Poverty renders these factors all the more acute and family breakdown has meant that older people increasingly live without stable familial ties. With a rapidly ageing population, Britain must now face up to these changing realities and work out a responsible, sustainable and compassionate way to look after its elderly.

In this context key themes will be considered including: preventative interventions; encouraging and maintaining independent living; universal expectations and entitlements of care; care system funding models; social care provision and its workforce; health care provision and its workforce; residential care home provision; dementia care; and end of life care.

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- ⁱ Office of National Statistics
- ⁱⁱ Office of National Statistics
- ⁱⁱⁱ *Households Below Average Income 2006/7*, Chapters 2 and 6, DWP, 2008 (figures quoted before housing costs)
- ^{iv} *Family Resource Survey 2006/7*, Department for Work and Pensions, 2008
- ^v Department for Energy and Climate Change, *Annual Report on Fuel Poverty Statistics 2009*, 2009
- ^{vi} *Shaping the Future of Care Together Green Paper*, 14 July 2009
- ^{vii} Laing and Buisson, 2008
- ^{viii} *Shaping the Future of Care Together Green Paper*, Cm 7673, 14 July 2009
- ^{ix} Carers UK fact sheet, website <http://www.carersuk.org/>
- ^x *Valuing Carers – calculating the value of unpaid care*, Carers UK, 2007
- ^{xi} Age Concern