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Facing the Cost of Long-term Care: CCC Urges Policy Makers to Heed JRF's Report

CCC warmly welcomes today's options paper from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) that seeks fairer ways of funding the cost of caring for older people. The JRF report concludes that the current system is unfair and incoherent, and that there needs to be a better system for sharing the costs between the state and private individuals. CCC urges policymakers to take heed of the options outlined in today's paper.

CCC has consistently argued that improving care standards and increased funding must go hand in hand. JRF's paper reflects CCC's consistent message that changes must be affordable and that a proper financial structure and incentives and certainty are necessary to stimulate more self-funding.

Dr Clive Bowman, CCC's chairman, commented:

"CCC welcomes the continuing work that JRF is undertaking and congratulates JRF on having the vision to face up to the future.

This paper makes it clear that serious policy development is required to provide a secure future for the ageing population. As this paper starkly portrays, to avoid making policy decisions would come uncomfortably close to being irresponsible. JRF's paper offers real options that are workable and which deserve serious consideration by government and by everyone concerned about care."

CCC expects that, following JRF's work and the on-going review for the King's Fund by Sir Derek Wanless on social care, an integrated approach to care and care funding will be possible that achieves:

- A rise in standards across-the-board
- An expansion in care provision
- A climate of stability and security that encourages tomorrow's older citizens to start planning today.

CCC particularly welcomes the recognition of the burgeoning challenge that is posed by dementia,

Dr Clive Bowman added:

"Whilst much planning has presumed that better health generally in older people will limit the future need for care, it has been inadequately recognised there will inevitably be an increase in the number of citizens burdened by dementia. It would be a serious indictment of our society not to recognise their needs and plan positively for them."

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Notes for Editors:

1. Contacts for further information:

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2. CCC is a broad-based, independent coalition of commercial, charitable and public service organisations with a shared interest in providing better long-term care for older people. CCC has been acting as an advocate for managed change since it was established in 1992 as the Continuing Care Conference with the objectives of:
- increasing awareness and developing understanding of long-term care of older people as a political issue
 - raising the standards of care available to older people
 - developing the standards of financial products used to fund long-term care
3. On 3 November, CCC launched, [The Best Care Possible?](#), CCC's long-term care policy healthcheck, which identifies a wide range of issues and outlines measures needed to enable people to get the best care possible to meet their needs.
4. CCC believes that all older people in Britain should live their lives in dignity, comfort and in a place of their choosing. We want all elements of society to make the necessary individual and social investment to ensure that happens. Our task is to ensure that policy-makers pursue this goal and to encourage the public to join with us in our mission to persuade them to do so.
5. CCC's Chairman is Dr Clive Bowman FRCP, Medical Director, BUPA Care Services. More information about CCC, including its members and Steering Group, are available at www.ccc-ltc.org.uk.
6. JRF's report published today, *Facing the cost of long-term care: Towards a sustainable funding system*, by Donald Hirsch, draws on the work of the JRF's Long-term Care Advisory Group. The report is published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and available from York Publishing Services, 64 Hallfield Road, Layerthorpe, York YO31 7ZQ, price £9.95 plus £2 p&p. The full report and a summary can be downloaded, without charge, from www.jrf.org.uk.

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