



Date: Please note – Embargoed until 00.01 hours, Thursday, 30 March 2006

CCC Responds to Wanless Review

CCC urges the Government to give full and proper consideration to today's report from the Wanless review of long-term funding of social care for older people. Today's and tomorrow's older people deserve no less than a radical review of how growing care needs can be met.

The report, the outcome of a year-long review led by Sir Derek Wanless, presents a stark picture of care today and the likely increase in demand – and costs - over the next 20 years; calls for a sharp increase in funding; and provides a credible set of options for how care could be paid for. CCC warmly welcomes its publication.

The review's conclusions, which are based on extensive, rigorous research, identify "very serious shortcomings in social care provision and funding arrangements". Sadly, we find we must agree with the analysis and the conclusion that people are being let down by the present system of means testing – as our members testify. CCC members look forward to contributing to the debate on care that is now so urgently needed.

Responding to today's report, Dr Clive Bowman, CCC's chairman, said:

"Two substantial bodies of work – the Wanless Review and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) work on the cost of care – are putting the spotlight firmly on the care system, and offer well-researched, responsible and imaginative options for a sustainable system of long-term care. Failure now by Government to address the key issue of sustainable funding for care and fair access to care of a high quality will prove more costly both in human and financial terms."

He added:

"CCC's members have long-standing concerns about unfair access to care and the sheer complexity of the care system and its lack of transparency. We are particularly pleased that Sir Derek sees the need for one national set of criteria to assess levels of care need.

Once again, a serious report has demonstrated evidence of significant unmet need. We need policies that fairly distribute resources amongst people with a need for care."

The Wanless review's preferred option, the Partnership model, would provide a minimum guaranteed amount of care free at the point of delivery, with matched funding by individuals and the state to the point where an economically justified care package is achieved, and extra private contributions after that point.

- ENDS -



Notes for Editors:

1. Contacts for further information:

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2. Sir Derek Wanless' report - *Securing Good Social Care for Older People: Taking a long-term view* is available at www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications.
3. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) published an options paper on 15 September 2005, *Facing the cost of long-term care: Towards a sustainable funding system*, which draws on the work of the JRF's Long-term Care Advisory Group, which continues. The report is available from www.jrf.org.uk.
4. *The Best Care Possible?*, CCC's long-term care policy healthcheck, identifies a wide range of issues and outlines measures needed to enable people to get the best care possible to meet their needs.
5. 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
6. 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.
7. CCC's Chairman is Dr Clive Bowman FRCP, Medical Director, BUPA Care Services. CCC's Steering Group members are listed at www.ccc-ltc.org.uk/about/

CCC, 30 March 2006