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CCC Census 2006: Care at the Crossroads

An expert conference taking place today will set out the findings of the largest ever census of UK care home residents – and what the results mean for future care policy development.

The census of over 32,000 people resident in 751 care homes across the UK found:

- a very high level of dependency in care homes generally
- an overlap in the types of needs between residential and nursing care
- the large numbers in care homes where loss of mental functioning is particularly significant. And it also highlighted the impact of chronic diseases including Alzheimer's disease and stroke.
- the inconsistency apparent in the use and funding of care homes from area to area

This ground-breaking census has been undertaken by CCC¹ members working together. It provides a profile of care home residents from a wide range of providers and builds on the findings of BUPA's 2003 census. CCC intends the findings to play a valuable role in informing the crucial issue of resources now and future planning for care, including planning of physical provision, staffing and supportive infrastructure.

The stark reality shown by the census, which confirms the high level of need among care home residents and the extent of their multiple needs is that:

- 72% of the residents included in the census were immobile or reliant on assistance
- 62% were confused or forgetful
- 24% were confused *and* immobile *and* incontinent

CCC urges policy-makers to give priority to the issues highlighted by the results and their implications for future care policy development.

Dr Clive Bowman, Chairman, CCC said:

“CCC recognises that policy-making on care is at a crossroads and expects the census findings to be helpful in developing policies that provide more consistent approaches to assessment and more highly integrated health and care responses to need. The census makes clear that care homes provide a crucial part of the spectrum of care on which many people depend.”

Today's multidisciplinary conference, convened by CCC and the Clinical Effectiveness and Evaluation Unit of the Royal College of Physicians of London, will consider the census findings and how people's care needs can best be met now and in future.

In addition to reporting the findings of the census, the conference will have responses from a range of leading stakeholders with regard to "what needs to be done".

- ENDS -

¹ CCC (founded in 1992 as the Continuing Care Conference) 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 (see Notes 3 & 7).



Notes for Editors:

1. Contacts for further information:

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2. Journalists seeking press packs or who wish to attend the conference should contact Helen Nicholson. Clive Bowman is available for interview from Thursday, 29 June.
3. 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:
 - o increasing awareness and developing understanding of long-term care of older people as a political issue
 - o raising the standards of care available to older people
 - o developing the standards of financial products used to fund long-term care
4. CCC's 2006 Care Home Census was carried out in spring 2006 by BUPA Care Homes, the National Care Forum (NCF), the Registered Nursing Home Association (RNHA) and the Cornwall Registered Homes Action Group (CRHAG). Martin Green, Chief Executive, English Community Care Association (ECCA) will chair the conference, which will take place on Friday, 30 June.
5. The conference convened by CCC and the Royal College of Physicians' Clinical Effectiveness and Evaluation Unit (CEEU) will consider the census findings from a broad policy perspective and from specialist but complementary perspectives, including those of care providers; consumers, notably self-funders; regulators; nurses and clinicians.
6. Conference speakers will include Dr Clive Bowman, Chairman, CCC; Julien Forder, King's Fund Wanless Team; Des Kelly, Director, National Care Forum; Sylvia Denton CBE, President, Royal College of Nursing (RCN); Sandy Johnstone, CCC; David Walden, Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI); Dr Steve Iliffe; Royal Free & UCL; Dr Finbarr Martin, St Thomas' Hospital; Dr Jonathan Potter RCP (CEEU).
7. 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.
8. [*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.
9. 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/steering-group