

Council of Care: Planning a Local Government Strategy for Older People

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Abstrak

"Council of care" is the report of a review of local government policies undertaken jointly by the Centre for Policy on Ageing and the Institute of Local Government Studies. It outlines the most important areas of current practice, highlights initiatives that could provide a model, and provides an informed basis for discussion of policy and decision making in the immediate future. The first section of the report examines the implications of the crisis in the welfare state and considers the pursuit of cost effectiveness in local government. The second part concentrates on how local councils can maintain and improve the quality of life of retired people, by ensuring that transport, planning, leisure and the police service are sensitive to their needs and limitations. Two chapters on housing review the case for and against sheltered housing, the role of the private sector, "staying-put" options, and the need for surveillance. Part three considers the services required by the frail elderly, and reviews the community care debate and developments in home help, meals services, day care, residential care, social work support, and some of the innovative alternatives. The final section considers the crucial issue of co-ordination between local government departments, and between local government and other agencies. Only by close collaboration and effective strategic planning can retired people be served in such a way as to ensure the best use of scarce resources. [4e de couv.].