



Future of an Ageing Population Project: Local Expert Stakeholders' Roundtable – Canterbury

12 November 2014

Context

As part of the evidence gathering for the Foresight Project on the Future of an Ageing Population, Sir Mark Walport and the Lead Expert Group undertook a programme of visits around the United Kingdom. The second of these visits was to Kent on the 12th and 13th of November 2014. This roundtable meeting was held in Canterbury and organised in partnership with the South East England Forum on Ageing.

Meeting

At a roundtable meeting, Sir Mark Walport, Professor Sarah Harper, and Mrs Mary Sinfield discussed with local leaders and experts the key challenges, opportunities and vision for the future of an ageing population in the context of financing and delivering social care in Kent and nationally.

Discussion: key themes

The issues and themes discussed by attendees are summarised below.

Vision of the future

- The need for leaders in government and the community to develop a medium term (2025) and long term (2040) vision to be able to plan and develop a strategy for an ageing population.
- That there is currently no single government department responsible for ageing.
- The need to develop a comprehensive vision for the future of social care. This should recognise local variation in demography and in demand for services, and the likelihood that the social care market will continue to evolve.

Community

- Given that many initiatives to support older adults are developed and delivered locally, it is important to understand what makes an effective community. What are the integral components that make up and define a community? What are the drivers of a successful community?
- The reason community-led initiatives succeed is often a result of strong local leadership. Scaling and transferring of successful local initiatives to other localities can therefore be challenging.

Role of the voluntary sector

- As the population ages it is likely that there will be an increasing demand for social care. The voluntary sector delivers many social care services. It is important to understand how this sector can be most effectively resourced and financed to meet the demand.
- Some voluntary organisations do not want to be wholly dependent on public funding in case it limits their independence of operation.



Housing

- Demand for particular housing types (traditional family houses, apartments, sheltered accommodation) will change as UK demography changes. This might include increased demand for houses that enable older people to live together with their family or as a group.
- New homes should be designed to be adaptable and usable throughout the life course. Existing housing could be adapted to be suitable for people of all ages. Looking internationally, authorities in the Netherlands are designing new housing communities that are useful for people of varying needs, allowing older people to be embedded within the whole community.

Work and pension system

- Many older adults want to contribute to society post retirement age; either in the workforce or in the voluntary sector. It is important that processes are in place to enable this, and to develop and use the skills of older members of society.
- It may not always be possible for individuals to work in during older age. However, more could be done to communicate the benefits of working longer to the healthy older population.

Societal attitudes

- Many of the issues that affect older people are no different to those the impact on the population as whole. Recognising this is important and could help prevent compartmentalising (and possibly stereotyping) the older population.

Health & social care

- As in all regions of the UK, life expectancy differs between districts in Kent.
- The user should be placed at the centre of service provision. It is important to recognise and value workers in the care sector.
- There is a need to understand how to support older adults to most effectively use personal budgets for care.
- The current model of social care provision appears to be based on a need deficit: what somebody cannot do. There is question as to whether this should be changed to one where it is focused on supporting what somebody wants to do.
- The Adult Social Care Outcomes Toolkit (ASCOT) measure captures an individual's social care-related quality of life. It may be worthwhile to explore its use as a wellbeing measure more generally.



Attendees

Mark Walport	Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Government Office for Science
Sarah Harper	University of Oxford and Chair of the Lead Expert Group of the Foresight project on the Future of Ageing
Mary Sinfield	New Dynamics of Ageing Programme and member of the Lead Expert Group of the Foresight project on the Future of Ageing
Julien Forder	Director of the Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent
Ann Netton	Researcher, Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent
Jenny Billings	Researcher, University of Kent
Graham Gibbens	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health, Kent County Council
Sharmila Nebhrajani	Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Ageing Better
Robert Stewart	Clinical Design Director, Whitegate Design
Claudia Sykes	Chief Executive Officer, Social Enterprise Kent
Sue Sawyer	Manager, Ashford Volunteer Centre
Sue Cliffe	Chief Officer, Age UK Herne Bay
Lorraine Mansfield	Development Manager, Orbit Housing
Kate Norster	IT Project Manager, Cummins Power Generation
Dave Martin	Executive Member of the South East Forum on Ageing
Jo Dally	Government Office for Science
Nitharna Sivarajah	Government Office for Science
James Pugh	Government Office for Science