

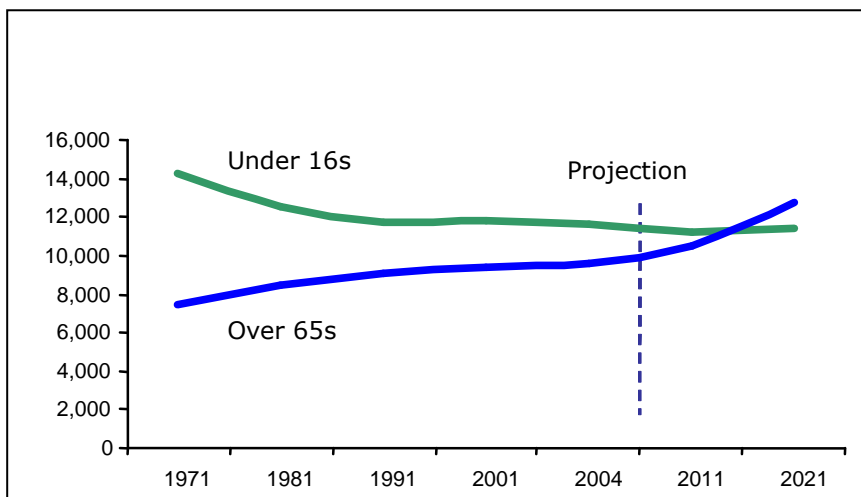
Background information on Adult Social Care

The state of social care

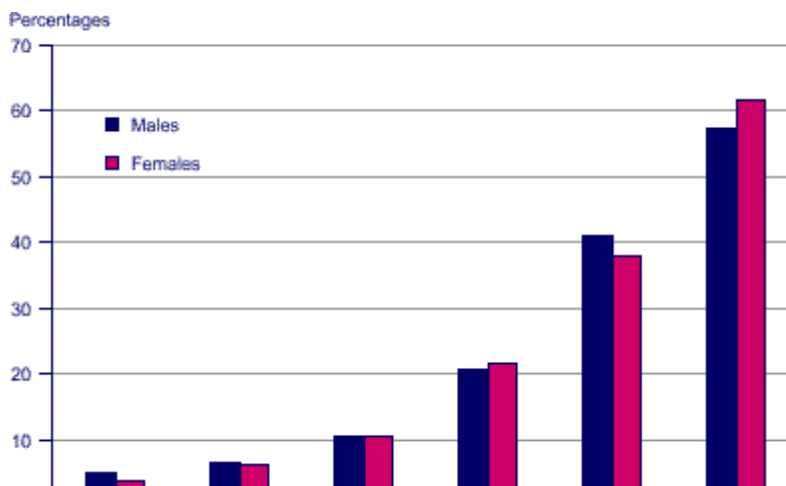
- 2 million people used care services provided by councils or commissioned on their behalf from independent and voluntary organisations in 2005/6.
- People assessed by their councils contributed around £2 billion in charges for their residential and community charges. Other people paid directly for their own services.
- Direct payments have doubled since 2004 but still account for only £1 in every £100 spent.
- The number of councils achieving a two or three star rating has increased from 75% to 78%.
- Residential services for older people are now meeting 79% of standards compared with 59% in 2003 but only 77% of care homes meet standards for managing medication safely and recruitment practices.

Demographic changes

- By 2026, 20% of the English population will be over 65:

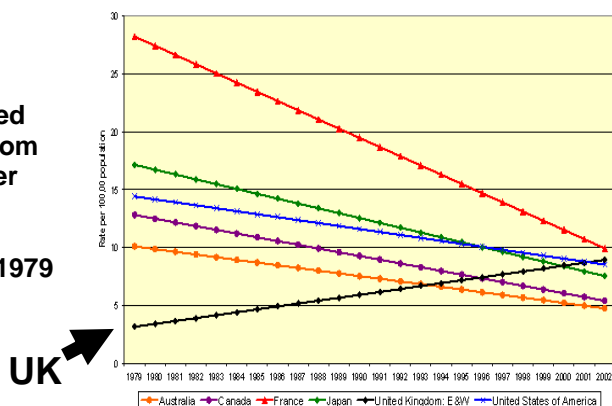


- The number of people over 85 is set to increase more than 60%.
- The number of young disabled people is also increasing: the number under the age of 16 with disabilities rose by 62% between 1975 and 2002.
- This will lead to an increase in patients with long-term conditions, the majority of whom will be elderly:



- Although people may live longer in the future, these e
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- Recent projections indicate a rise of 53% in the number of older people with some care needs over the next 20 years and a rise of 54% in older people with a high level of need.
- Extra years may not necessarily be lived in good health: between 1981 and 2001 male life expectancy increased by 4.8 years (3.6 years for females) but the number of years a person can expect to live in poor health rose from 6.5 years to 8.7 years for men and from 10.1 to 11.6 years for women.
- Lifestyles are becoming less healthy due to 'lifestyle' causes such as obesity and alcohol:

Age standardised mortality from chronic liver disease, selected countries, 1979 to 2002



Caring

- Every day, another six thousand people take on a caring responsibility.
- Over 3 in 5 people in the UK will become carers at some time in their lives.
- 1.5 million combine full-time paid employment with unpaid care.
- Those who provide 20 or more hours of unpaid care a week are clustered in low level, low paid jobs.

Funding

- Government support for services such as social care through the general grant has increased by just 14 per cent in real terms since 1997/98.
- A YouGov survey (published 3 September) showed that 75% of the public would be prepared to pay 1p more in terms of tax to improve care funding.
- A recent LGA report *Without a care?* indicated that four out of five adults of all ages expect help from their council if they have basic care needs when they reach old age.
- However, it is likely three-quarter of councils will have to set their eligibility criteria at substantial/critical next year.

