

Please email your response to evidence@cpa.org.uk by **14th November 2014**.

This is not a questionnaire. The questions included are for guidance and to act as a prompt. It is not necessary to answer all of the questions or even to use this form to submit your evidence if you find it more convenient not to do so.

The role of local authorities in preparing for the opportunities and challenges of an ageing society.

The Centre for Policy on Ageing has been commissioned by the Local Government Association (LGA) to undertake a call for evidence on the role for Local Government in respect of an ageing society. A cross-cutting Task and Finish group has been established by LGA to consider the opportunities and challenges that an ageing society presents and how local authorities might prepare themselves in the immediate and longer term to respond to these. The intention is for this programme to be completed and its report published by March 2015.

We would welcome your views on the contribution that Local Government can offer, and the changes Local Government should make, to adjust to their local ageing communities and to maximize the opportunities for local citizens and communities to age better. It would be helpful if you can cite examples where you are aware of good or innovative practice

Section A

Person answering the call for evidence

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Section B

The questions that follow are for guidance and to act as a prompt. It is not necessary to answer all of the questions or even to use this form if you find it more convenient not to do so. We are also happy to receive local reports and evaluations where appropriate.

The call is particularly interested in looking beyond traditional 'care and support' services to strategies that improve older-age quality of life, provide an age-friendly environment and include 'prevention' measures that promote healthy ageing in place.

We would like to hear of any innovative and groundbreaking work that you are doing, or planning to do. Examples may come from any area including strategic planning, commissioning, service design and delivery or activities developed in partnership with local networks of older people and communities.

1. *What are the main benefits to your community with regard to an ageing society?*

*Older people with disposable income help to support local business and facilities such as local theatre and concerts.
They also provide mutual support through organisations such as University of the Third Age, Friends in Retirement, Probus, etc.
Some provide childcare for grandchildren to help their wider family to access employment.
Several are engaged in voluntary work such as Advisers for Citizens Advice Bureaux and WRVS or helping in schools with literacy (hearing children read).*

2. *What are the key issues for your community with regard to an ageing society?*

*Increase in Dementia as people live longer.
More specialist services required to meet of those who are frail.
Substantial increase in cost of services to meet the rising population of over 80s.
Increasing burden on carers
Need for specialist transport services for those with limited mobility..*

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3. *In your opinion or from your perspective - are local authorities important as contributors to a society adjusting to an ageing population? In what ways can they contribute? What should they do?*

Alongside the NHS it is Local Authorities that provides the support and services for the ageing population and are having to re-prioritise budgets to meet the cost of providing services.

They can contribute by supporting voluntary agencies such as Age UK and working to develop the market for voluntary and private providers of specialist services.

Helping to support Shopmobility and other transport facilities.

Commission Advice Agencies to assist older people to claim benefits to which they are entitled.

Encourage developers (and work with Housing Associations) to provide specialist housing for older people, including Sheltered and Continuing Care schemes.

4. *If you are not part of a local authority - How might local authorities complement and support your work and what might you envision or what are your particular hopes for local government to achieve?*

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5. *How do local authorities need to adapt to enable older people to achieve their full potential?*
Improve access to information on services, particularly for those who are housebound (train call-centre staff in dealing with older people, use of internet, etc.).
Reconfigure services to meet changing needs and prioritise those for the most dependent.

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6. *What are the key challenges facing local government in respect of health and social care as a result of population ageing? What needs to change (structurally, culturally or financially) to enable local government to tackle these challenges in cooperation with health and other partner organisations?*

Finance – with government grants not keeping pace or reflecting the true cost of services and scale of the demographic change in population.

Staffing – availability of sufficient Social Workers.

Increased burden on Carers, many of whom are elderly themselves and finding it increasingly difficult to cope.

Lack of Nursing Home beds.

Cost of the recent DoLS judgment

Doubts over full cost of implementing Care Act pending final government regulations.

Potential disputes with NHS over who should meet costs (i.e. Dementia as a health issue or social care) and pressure on hospital discharges.

Need to have closer working with NHS (via Health & Wellbeing Boards?) and pooled budgets

7. *How is an 'ageing' strategy being developed in your area? What are the personnel, structures and processes necessary to support that strategy? What are the means by which 'buy-in' and engagement with the strategy are achieved? How is the strategy informed by the needs and aspirations of older people and how is integration achieved between officers and members and local authorities and partner organisations in the health and voluntary sectors?*

New Dementia Strategy and Mental Health Strategy – agreed with partners through the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Older people feature in the Council Plan which is adopted by elected members.

'Make Every Contact Count' philosophy rolled out across all council departments, with particular emphasis on contact with older people.

Call Centre staff trained to pick up on older people issues and a ,multi-agency visiting service approach to assess need (e.g. Fire Service fitting smoke alarms, advice on utility bills, benefits, health care).

[If a strategy document exists please attach it].

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8. *If you are within a local authority – What are the governance arrangements on ageing issues? Which officer leads on the implementation of your ageing strategy or leads on ageing issues (in the absence of a strategy). If possible please include contact details? Which elected member or board or committee deals with ageing issues?*

*Director of Adult Services is Lead Officer
Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing is Lead Member
Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Board provides challenge
Health & Wellbeing Board provides multi-agency approach*

9. *Which national policy levers and drivers assist you to prepare and respond for an ageing society locally? What has assisted you and what has been a hindrance? What would assist you to respond more actively or help you to undertake an appropriate role for your community?*

*Health & Care Act – creation of Health & Wellbeing Boards
Better Care Fund – but the complications in approvals has not been helpful
Better funding of Local Government is needed to address the increased pressures.*

10. *Do local authorities have a role in addressing digital exclusion or in helping their older populations deal with the national government's 'digital-by-default' strategy?*

*Yes – working to increase availability of Broadband.
Working with voluntary agencies and Housing providers to assist older people to access IT
Providing re-cycled computers to those on low incomes
Making more information readily available through improved council web sites.*

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11. *How can or should local authorities support older workers and address the ageing of their own workforces?*

*Provide opportunities for 'step-down' when nearing retirement.
Allow continued employment of staff beyond the recognised retirement age.
Provide pre-retirement advice, particularly around pensions and benefits.
Develop effective 'Succession Planning'*

12. *We would like to hear of any services, activities or initiatives which you believe are good practice and innovative with regard to an ageing society – please note – please provide a short description. If there are any reports or evaluation documents please attach.*