

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF OPPORTUNITY AGE COMMITMENTS

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Key achievements

The majority of the commitments made in Opportunity Age have now been delivered. These include:

- Introduction of **age discrimination** legislation in employment and training, 2006; Equalities and Human Rights Commission 2007; and current Equalities Bill (Public Duty and Goods, Facilities and Services).
- **Employment and benefits:** reform of Incapacity Benefit – Employment and Support Allowance introduced, October 2008; Train to Gain introduced; a range of measures to improve work incentives, including changes to pension rules (e.g. working and receiving pension, pension deferral).
- Commitment to **Lifetime Home Standards** part of 2008 strategy “Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods”
- **Transport** – accessibility planning introduced; free bus travel for over 60s introduced locally 2006 and then nationally 2008.
- **Leisure activities** – measures include free swimming for over 60s in over 80% of local authorities from April 2009.
- **Volunteering in the Third Age** programme concluded 2007.
- **Care** - “Our health, our care, our say” White Paper – 2006. Putting People First social care transformation programme - £500m for 2008/9- 10/11.
- **Individual Budget pilots** evaluation report published Oct 2008. Personalised Budgets to be rolled out nationally.
- New focus on tackling **Pensioner Poverty:** Pension Service established and then developed as Pensions Disability and Carers’ Service, April 2008.
- Pilots of **joined up working** and preventative services (Link Age Plus and POPPS) completed and learning being rolled out.
- **Stronger framework of governance:** Cabinet Committee; Public Service Agreement 17 for the first time sets older people’s wellbeing as a top Government priority

1.1	An ambition of an 80 per cent overall employment rate, including a million more older workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This ambition is now reflected in the PSA framework. The actions below all build towards achieving it.
1.2	Age equality in employment law in 2006, supported by the EHRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Age Discrimination legislation was introduced on 1 October 2006, banning discrimination in employment and training. ▪ The Equality Bill introduced in April 2009 includes age as an equality strand in relation to the provision of services and the exercise of public functions. The Equality Bill will mean that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - age discrimination will be banned in the provision of services and the exercise of public functions. - better more responsive public services for older and younger people will be delivered through a new public sector equality duty. It will require public bodies to consider how their spending decisions, employment practices, and public services can help promote age equality and meet the particular needs of older people.
1.3	An improved Age Positive campaign to help change employer attitudes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be Ready was a 2 year campaign (2004-6) directly involving 60 lead business organisations in the promotion of information and guidance on age good practice in employment and preparing for the coming age legislation (passed in October 2006). A total of 1.4m employers were contacted. ▪ The Age Positive team are working in close partnership with business lead organisations to develop and promote clear guidance and toolkits for employers on removing compulsory retirement ages and adopting flexible approaches to work and retirement. With industrial sector leaders we are developing sector models for encouraging older worker employment and the removal of compulsory retirement ages. We have started with transport and logistics, who have welcomed this approach, and will in the coming months roll this approach out to other sectors.

<p>1.4</p>	<p>New pension rules to give incentives to stay in work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The DWP's Extending Working Life programme continues to develop strategies to encourage people to continue working up to, and past, their State Pension Age. This will allow them to increase their income now and enable them to continue saving for their eventual retirement. ▪ Many pension schemes have adopted terms that support flexible retirement and longer working, following tax rule changes in 2006 allowing people to carry on working while drawing from their pension. However DWP is also consulting with employer and pensions organisations on the further guidance many schemes are requesting from government to help them adapt their schemes in support of flexible retirement. ▪ Other measures in place and proposed include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing the deferral rate for State Pensions to 10.4% per year and introducing the option of a lump sum instead of an increased weekly pension when it is eventually drawn; - simplifying tax rules to allow, where pension scheme rules permit, drawing down of all or part of an occupational pension and continuing to work for the pension sponsoring employer; - increasing the earliest age at which an occupational or private pension can be drawn from 50 to 55 by 2010; - gradually increasing the women's State Pension Age from 60 to 65 between 2010 and 2020; - increasing the State Pension Age by one year, over a two year period in 2024, 2034 and 2044, to eventually reach age 68 in 2046.
<p>1.5</p>	<p>Better information and guidance so people can reskill and plan for later careers and retirement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Face-to-Face Pilot project has been completed and the outcomes are currently being evaluated to inform guidance offered to older workers. ▪ Financial planning and saving for later life to ensure people have the means to fund their aspirations for later life. ▪ A new Adult Advancement and Careers Service is currently being piloted with a view to national roll out by 2010, which will provide adults, whether they are out of work or in work, with guidance on skills, retraining and career opportunities.

<p>1.6</p>	<p>Extending learning opportunities for older people so they can stay in work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Train to Gain and other skills programmes introduced and effects on older workers regularly monitored. Train to Gain supports workers of all ages, to improve skills and employment prospects, labour market progression and social mobility. Key part of real help from the Government to people who are unemployed. ▪ BIS support for Union Learning Fund and Union Learning Representatives (ULRs), achieved our target of training 22,000 Union Learning Reps (ULRs) over a year before the March 2010 deadline. On track to help over 250,000 people a year into learning by March 2010 (200,000 in 2008/09) many from hardest to reach groups and including 34,000 with poor basic literacy and numeracy skills. Evaluation in 2006 showed 36% of learners were aged 45 to 54 and 27% were over 54. ▪ Giving employees the right to request Time to Train from their employers contained in Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill (legislation expected in force by 6 April 2010). Employers would be required to seriously consider, and respond to, all requests they receive. The right would be available to all employees who have worked for their employer for not less than 26 weeks and could be attractive to older workers who may not have previously considered training. ▪ For those in employment the Government has expanded the number of Adult Apprenticeships available for people aged over 25. For those out of work we are putting in place new integrated employment and skills support by 2010 to help individuals return to and sustain employment. ▪ Adult learners of any age continue to have access to literacy and numeracy courses free of charge and free tuition to take a first full level 2 qualification at a college or through their employer. New legislation will strengthen and protect these entitlements. ▪ For the low-skilled and those with a poor experience of formal education, Informal Adult Learning can provide a way back and a stepping stone to further learning, qualifications and more rewarding jobs for people of all ages and backgrounds in every community.
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1.7	Reform of Incapacity Benefit, helping people back into work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) introduced Oct 2008, building on successful Pathways to Work approach. ▪ ESA replaces Incapacity Benefit and Income Support, paid because of an illness or disability, for new claimants only. Customers who already receive Incapacity Benefit, will continue to receive it. ESA involves a new medical assessment called the Work Capability Assessment. This assesses what claimants can do, rather than what they cannot, and identifies the health-related support they might need. ▪ ESA offers claimants personalised support and financial help, so that they can do appropriate work if they are able to. ▪ It is intended that Incapacity Benefit recipients will move to the new benefit between 2009 and 2013. ▪ From 2011 we will pilot Mandatory Pathways help for existing Incapacity Benefit claimants aged 50+ to find out what works best in helping them return to work.
1.8	New rights for carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ‘Employers for Carers’ was launched in January 2009 to ensure that employers have the support to retain employees with caring responsibilities. It promotes the business benefits of supporting carers and provides advice and support for employers on carer-friendly policy and practice. ▪ The Work and Families Act 2006 extended the right to carers of adults to request flexible working from April 2007 with a duty on the employer to consider their request seriously. The definition of ‘carer’ will be reviewed, in relation to flexible working, once the impact of the current extension has been evaluated. An awareness-raising campaign began in April 2009 to coincide with the extension of the ‘right to request’ to parents of those aged 16 and under.

2.1	Establishing a new Commission for Equality and Human Rights to root out age discrimination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Established 2007, renamed Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) ▪ The EHRC has significant powers to enforce the equalities duties of organisations and authorities, including, ultimately, launching official inquiries and formal investigations. ▪ It has extensive legal powers and a dedicated directorate of expert lawyers who are specialists in equality law. This means that the commission is well equipped to take legal action on behalf of individuals, especially where there are strategic opportunities to push the boundaries of the law.
2.2	Carers Strategy – support for carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carers Strategy (June 2008) sets out Government’s short-term agenda and long-term vision for future support of carers, underpinned by £225m to implement some short-term and longer term commitments. ▪ New commitments include: £150m towards planned short breaks for carers; £38m towards supporting carers to enter or re-enter the job market and £6m towards improving support for young carers. ▪ DH is in the process of setting up a number of sites to demonstrate and evaluate good practice that improves the outcomes for carers and provides value for money. They will explore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - health and well-being checks for carers; - breaks for carers; - how the NHS can better support carers. ▪ In July 2009 DH announced 25 selected sites which will be up and running by October 2009.
2.3	New ways of giving local authorities incentives to involve older people in local decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 introduced a “duty to involve” which requires LAs and PCTs to involve local people in the design and delivery of services. ▪ In February 2009 DWP published the government’s response to John Elbourne’s review, “Empowering Engagement:” The recommendations within this include establishing a UK Advisory Forum on Ageing co-chaired by the Minister and supported by regional advisory forums. ▪ In Round 10 of the Beacon Scheme, DWP are sponsoring a theme on “Positive engagement of older people to improve their independence and wellbeing”. There are 4 winning authorities who are working with DWP to share their good practice. ▪ Cabinet Office/DWP working on initiatives on active ageing in the community for strategy.
2.4	Access to local services, including modernising local amenities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCMS/Sport England activity on sport, e.g. free swimming for all over 60s from April 2009 (taken up by over 80% of local authorities), work with Amateur Swimming Association on county swimming co-ordinators and lessons for new/lapsed swimmers, Whole Sport Plans. ▪ DH Change4Life social marketing campaign and Physical Activity Plan. ▪ DCMS contribution to Ageing Strategy Phase 2 – what more can be done to empower individuals to participate more in later life through leisure & cultural activities.

<p>2.5</p>	<p>New crime reduction programmes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ £15 m package announced in April 2009 to take early action to keep burglary down. This includes £6m to provide practical help to secure the homes of those most vulnerable to burglary. ▪ Working in partnership with Help the Aged/Age Concern (Now Age UK) on this safer homes initiative. ▪ Every area in England and Wales now has a dedicated neighbourhood policing team undertaking visible patrol and tackling low level crime and anti-social behaviour, focusing on priorities set by the local community. ▪ Neighbourhood policing engages with local people to identify and tackle the things in their environment that make them fearful and insecure and uses a variety of methods of engagement. (This is important in relation to those hard to reach groups in the community – including older people who may also be housebound – where different approaches are necessary in order to build up mutual trust and co-operation). ▪ The Policing Pledge has now been adopted by all 43 police forces in England & Wales and sets out 10 service commitments that are standard for all forces. For the first time the public will know the minimum standard of service they can expect to receive from the police and will have a greater say over the issues that they would like the police to prioritise in their local areas. ▪ 3600 Community Crime Fighters announced in September 2008 will be trained by 2009 with £5m Government investment. ▪ Supporting neighbourhood watch schemes with the Association of Chief Police Officers. ▪ Close working with the utility industry to agree effective practice to reduce the risk of “distraction burglary” (by bogus utility officials) which can target older people. ▪ On-going work with ACPO’s Operation Liberal team, which is dedicated to driving down distraction burglary and produced a good practice guide for police and local partners in 2008.
<p>2.6</p>	<p>Promoting healthy living among older people through proposals in the recent White Paper on public health to encourage physical activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The 2004 White Paper (Choosing Health) set out principles for enabling people to make healthier choices about lifestyles. ▪ Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives (January 2008) outlined proposals for building physical activity into people’s lives and tackling rising obesity levels. The cross-government Swimming initiative is a £140m package to extend opportunities to swim and to maximise the health benefits of wider participation in swimming. It includes free swimming for the over 60’s. ▪ A new Physical Activity Plan is due to be published very shortly. It will set out the Government’s strategy to promote the importance of physical activity, and for England to become a more physically active nation for 2012 and beyond.

2.7	<p>Legislation planned for 2007 to require new homes to be built to Lifetime Home Standards. Also an Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Public Service Agreement target to increase the proportion of older people living in decent accommodation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publication and implementation of Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods, CLG's National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society, Feb 2008. Key measures include: ▪ Expansion of handyperson services –new funding of £33m from 2008/09. ▪ Maintaining independence by adapting homes as older people grow older: £460 million allocated over 3 years. ▪ Established a new dedicated housing advice and information service providing expert advice for older people. ▪ Building accessible and easily adaptable homes: a new aspiration of all new homes by 2013 built to Lifetime Home standards, (e.g. wider doors, level access, more convenient sockets.) Will apply to all public sector housing by 2011 (70,000 a year). Review of uptake in private sector in 2010 with view to regulate in 2013. ▪ Encouraging the development of Lifetime Neighbourhoods: CLG seeking to promote exemplary inclusive design through Eco- towns; to produce report on Lifetime Neighbourhoods and guidance for local authorities; and to develop seminars for planners.
2.8	<p>All local authorities in England and Wales asked to develop five-year transport plans which identify the accessibility issues affecting an ageing population and their priorities for addressing them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduced accessibility planning, to help people, particularly those most in need, to reach the jobs and services they need. ▪ From 2006, Local Transport Authorities have been required to include accessibility strategies within their Local Transport Plans. ▪ DfT will highlight the need to meet transport needs of older people in its forthcoming new guidance to local authorities on their Local Transport Plans. ▪ DfT researched older people's transition through retirement and the role that transport plays during this time.
2.9	<p>On top of existing legislation requiring local authorities to meet half of local bus fares for people over 60, from 2006, free off-peak local area bus travel will be extended to them and to eligible disabled people in England. And free bus services will be extended in Scotland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Free off-peak England-wide bus travel introduced in April 2008 for those aged 60 and over and for eligible disabled people. The Government is spending £1 billion in England on the statutory concession scheme. ▪ Free bus travel any time for those over 60 in Wales and Scotland. ▪ Free bus and train travel for those over 65 in Northern Ireland.

2.10	<p>Greater access to learning, including the removal of the age cap for higher education fee loans from 2006.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cap removed in 2006. ▪ see 1.vi for other learning initiatives. ▪ Tuition fees are available to new students wishing to undertake full-time Higher Education (HE) courses, regardless of age. For students eligible for part-time HE support, a course grant and fee grant are available - both are means-tested but are non-repayable and no age limit applies. For full-time HE courses, maintenance loans are available only to those under 60 on the first day of their course. ▪ DIUS White Paper 'The Learning Revolution' published March 2009 to raise profile and take-up of Informal Adult Learning that is accessible to all: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - announced £20m Transformation Fund to foster new networks and innovative approaches to widening participation in learning. - working with National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE), BUPA and other key partners to improve informal adult learning for older people in care settings. - working with CLG to roll out support for older people learning IT skills. - working with NIACE and Third Age Trust (Universities of the Third Age) to develop local models of self-organised learning suitable for many different communities. - working with Life Academy to develop provision to help older people prepare for mid-life career changes and retirement.
2.11	<p>Measures to encourage volunteering, including a new Home Office-funded national co-ordinating body (Volunteering in the Third Age) to provide a focal point for older volunteering.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vita programme successfully concluded and report published in Feb 2007. ▪ On 12 May OTS announced details of three new programmes to boost volunteering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - access to volunteering : reducing barriers to disabled people volunteering. - volunteer managers training : to provide support to volunteer managers. - building a volunteer legacy : for London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

3.1	Giving older people the support they need to remain in their own home for as long as possible, in warmth and comfort.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DH's White Paper for Health and Social Care "Our health, our care, our say", published 30th January 2006 is being implemented in a wide variety of ways. ▪ Key elements include 'Putting People First", a transformation programme for social care focussing on prevention and personalisation over this CSR period, with funding of over £500m. ▪ CLG's Supporting People programme helps over 800,000 older people a year to maintain independent living through funding e.g. home improvement agency services, floating support.
3.2	Piloting individualised budgets, so that those who wish to can 'buy' their own care packages and simplifying the assessment process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Individual Budgets pilot project was a cross-government initiative led by DH, working with DWP and CLG. ▪ The evaluation of the 2-year pilot was published in October 2008. ▪ The Government's objective, as set out in Putting People First, is for all people eligible for social care to be able to access a personal budget, giving them choice and control over their support.
3.3	Gathering the evidence about the longer-term impact of shifting resources from high-level to lower-level care support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The DH Partnerships for Older People Pilots (POPPs) is testing and evaluating approaches aimed at creating a sustainable shift in resources and culture away from institutional and hospital based crisis care for older people towards earlier, targeted interventions for older people within their own homes and communities. ▪ The National Evaluation of the POPP programme is due to report in Autumn 2009 and will contribute to the evidence base on the effectiveness of 'prevention and early intervention' for older people and will provide learning and best practice to support the implementation of the 'Putting People First' agenda. ▪ In Oct 2008 an interim report on progress found POPPs: demonstrated cost-effectiveness in the areas where data is already available; improved users' perceptions of their quality of life; strengthened and accelerated developments around joint commissioning; and contributed to a culture change with more emphasis on early intervention and preventative care. ▪ To date only 15 (4%) of the total 470 projects across the POPP programme have indicated that they do not intend to sustain their service after the end of DH funding. ▪ The wider lessons from the project are being disseminated alongside evidence from the Link-Age Plus Pilots. A comprehensive resource pack and DVD were launched at the National Childrens and Adult Social Services conference in October 2008.

3.4	Creating The Pension Service to provide an organisation dedicated to tackling pensioner poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed and augmented to become the Pensions Disability and Carers' Service on 1 April 2008.
3.5	People entering hospital to keep full entitlement to their State Pension, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Income Support for the duration of their stay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduced April 2006.
3.6	Tackling the specific disadvantages that black and minority ethnic elders can experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local authorities pursuing in the context of their local populations. ▪ A number of the LinkAge Plus pilots targeted their activity at BME communities. In particular Leeds pilot produced a resources pack developed by front-line, multi-discipline professionals whose work involves contact with socially isolated people including BME elders. Applying principles of holistic working it includes information, signposting, training, and best practice. ▪ In Gloucestershire they extended their Village Agents initiative to encompass Community Agents now including Chinese, Bengali, Gujarati, African and migrant communities. Village Agents are local people, employed part-time, who become a trusted community member and resource. ▪ In Tower Hamlets, which has a high BME population they have produced a range of best practice based on their Neighbours In Poplar – Bengali Older Adults Group.
3.7	Building on its interim report <i>Excluded Older People</i>, the Social Exclusion Unit will publish an agreed plan of government action on exclusion in winter 2005/06.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed early 2006 and action points completed in 2007. • SEU (Social Exclusion Unit) was disbanded in May 06. It was responsible for publishing the report Sure Start to Later Life which had the policy announcement of the LinkAge plus pilots – which DWP runs. The aim of these pilots is to tackle social exclusion amongst older people.

3.8

A Link-Age project which is delivering one-stop services so that older people only have to give information once, and an integrated visiting service so that people who need it can have a full, personal, overall check-up of their needs and entitlements.

- Joint working between PDCS and Local Authority teams in different formats was tested and evaluated 2005 and continues nationwide.
- The LinkAge Plus (LA+) pilot programme has brought local authorities together with partners in health and the voluntary and community sector to find innovative ways to holistically join up services and going beyond the transitional areas of health and social care.
- LA+ emphasises importance of outreach activities to ensure that the most difficult to reach older people are actively encouraged to engage with services available to them.
- The pilot areas have consistently demonstrated strong benefits for older people through improved access and relevant, tailored services that are popular with local people.
- There is a strong business case for the LA+ approach, built around efficiencies from an holistic approach to service delivery and cost effective services facilitated
- The value of LA+ to local authorities has meant that the majority of pilot authorities have found ongoing funding to support LA+ initiatives beyond the pilot period.
- The National Evaluation and Business case reports were published on 16 July 2009.
- LA+ National Evaluation - <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep572.pdf>
- LA+ Business case - <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep573.pdf>
- The Streamlined Assessment Pilot (StAP), with the Pensions, Disability and Carers Service, has been testing the viability of using the form completed by social workers and health care professionals for the Single Assessment Process (for care) as a claim for Attendance Allowance. This pilot has been extended to pilot a further 4 local authorities in the south east to increase the sample size and test the potential for scaling up – http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/rr_abstracts/rra_534.asp
- Customers are clear winners as they are only required to complete one form
- For partners it :
 - reduced the time required to visit customers to obtain information;
 - reduced duplication in information gathering;
 - improved their perception of the service delivered to customers.

3.9	<p>Promoting health among older people. Developing a fully integrated service pilot – Link-Age Plus – which goes beyond the initial Link-Age service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8 Link Age plus projects have been completed and the evaluation is being concluded. ▪ Lessons learned from the Link Age plus projects and the Department of Health’s Partnership for Older People Projects are being disseminated nationally. ▪ LA+ National Evaluation report published on 16 July 2009 and available at http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep572.pdf ▪ LA+ Business Case - http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep573.pdf ▪ Long term review of care and support underway, Green Paper was published on 2009. http://careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/greenpaper/
3.10	<p>Taking steps to ensure that, where people do end up going into residential care, they receive high-quality service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long term review of care and support underway, Green Paper published 14 July 2009. http://careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/greenpaper/ ▪ Establishment of the Care Quality Commission on 1 April 2009 as the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England. The new Commission inspects all health and adult social care services, including residential care homes, to ensure that essential levels of safety and quality are met, and protects the interests of people subject to the Mental Health Act.
3.11	<p>Tackling rural exclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Social Exclusion Task Force (SETF, Cabinet Office) is working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to explore the issues faced by older people who live in rural areas. ▪ The project seeks to ensure that older people living in rural areas enjoy optimal well-being as they age through tackling social exclusion (e.g. access to services). ▪ The project will feed into the wider OP refresh to ensure the needs of older people living in rural areas are addressed

4.1	<p>Stronger central government co-ordination, with leadership from the Department for Work and Pensions, building on existing Cabinet structures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Cabinet sub-committee on Ageing was established in 2005 and has recently been re-constituted, overseeing the refresh of the Opportunity Age strategy. ▪ Angela Eagle, 'Minister of State for Pensions and Ageing Society' leads across government on the ageing agenda. ▪ A new UK Advisory Forum on Ageing co-chaired by the Minister of State for Pensions and the Ageing Society and the Minister of State for Care Services met for the first time on 7 July 2009. The Forum will have a clear focus on helping to improve the wellbeing of older people and addressing the opportunities and challenges of an ageing society. It will provide advice and support implementation and development of the Government's strategy for older people and an ageing society.
4.2	<p>A clearer focus on our strategic outcomes for our national stakeholder partnership in assessing progress towards outcomes and informing cultural changes in society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunity Age Partnership Group established in early 2006 has reviewed progress on a regular basis. Replaced by MoS-chaired UK Advisory Forum for Older People (described above), following publication of new ageing strategy. ▪ Opportunity Age indicators were published in 2006, showing indicators in 5 outcome areas contributing to increased independence and wellbeing in later life. ▪ In CSR 2007 DWP agreed Public Service Agreement 17 'Tackle Poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life, focussing on the 5 outcome areas, with 5 key indicators. ▪ Indicators relevant to PSA 17 are included in the set of 198 national local government indicators and Local Area Agreement Targets.
4.3	<p>A powerful CEHR to tackle ageism within its wider remit to promote diversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Established 2007, renamed Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) ▪ The EHRC has significant powers to enforce the equalities duties of organisations and authorities, including, ultimately, launching official inquiries and formal investigations. ▪ It has extensive legal powers and a dedicated directorate of expert lawyers who are specialists in equality law. This means that the commission is well equipped to take legal action on behalf of individuals, especially where there are strategic opportunities to push the boundaries of the law.
4.4	<p>A forum led by the Chief Scientific Adviser to harness science and technology to the challenges of ageing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Government's Foresight Programme aims to improve the relative performance of UK science and engineering and its use by Government and society. ▪ Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Wellbeing, published October 2008, highlighted the under utilised mental capital of older people and society as a whole, and the risks in failing to do more to address threats to mental wellbeing in later life such as dementia and depression, making proposals to address these two concerns.

4.5	<p>An Observatory on Ageing within the Department for Work and Pensions to make better use of the evidence to inform debate and action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Options for an Observatory were reviewed; it was concluded that there were more effective ways to bring together and use evidence, through improving government links with the research community. These included transforming the Funders' Forum for ageing research (now called the UK Age Research Forum) into an effective strategic partnership; and engaging with the £25m New Dynamics of Ageing research programme.
4.6	<p>From 2005, the performance of local authorities with their partners on services for older people to be assessed by the Audit Commission, including the engagement of older people in decisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Comprehensive Performance Assessment framework included key lines of enquiry about services for older people. ▪ A recent Audit Commission report 'Don't stop me now' reported on these and related issues and concluded that more progress still needs to be made. ▪ From April 2009 the new Comprehensive Area Assessment will assess how well local public services are delivering better results for local people across the whole area, focusing on agreed priorities. ▪ The outputs from the Audit Commission's study "Financial Implications of an Ageing Society" due in Autumn 2009 will show how local authorities can make best use of demographic and service cost data to plan ahead for an ageing population. ▪ Empowering engagement :a stronger voice for older people, the Government response to John Elbourne's review was published in February 2009. ▪ The UK Advisory Forum on Ageing was set-up and meets for the first time on 7 July. ▪ Membership of the Forum will include older people representatives from the Older People's Forums in the 9 English regions, and representatives from the Strategic Ageing Forums in the devolved nations, relevant officials, key ministers and stakeholders. ▪ Government Office Co-ordinators have been in place since April 2009 to support Regional Forums/ development of engagement of older people with government at all levels across regions.

<p>4.7</p>	<p>Local leadership on ageing issues and ways of improving performance matched to local needs to be addressed in the development of the Government’s 10-year vision for local authorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This agenda has been taken forward through the Stronger and More Prosperous Communities White Paper (2006) that gave local people and local communities more influence and power to improve their lives; the Local Government and Public involvement in Health Act (2007) making provisions for local government and other authorities, inspections and audit of local government; the Central Local Government Concordat (Dec 2007) agreeing the rights and responsibilities of local government, including effective leadership and empowerment of local communities. Local Area Agreements and National Indicator Set of the new Performance Framework provide further local delivery and assessment mechanisms to address the needs of older people and an ageing society. ▪ In May 2009, The Local Government Association and the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government published “Getting on well together – councils working with older people” with examples of good approaches for delivering in an ageing society. ▪ Further measures are set out in the Opportunity Age refresh, including developing an agreement between national Government, local authorities, primary care trusts, NHS trusts and other local delivery partners to encourage work with local people to recognise the importance of ageing challenges and opportunities, and provide stronger incentives and support for the delivery of local services for people in later life.
<p>4.8</p>	<p>Local leadership on ageing issues and ways of improving performance matched to local needs to be addressed in the development of the Government’s 10-year vision for local authorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This agenda has been taken forward through the Stronger and More Prosperous Communities White Paper (2006) that gave local people and local communities more influence and power to improve their lives; the Local Government and Public involvement in Health Act (2007) making provisions for local government and other authorities, inspections and audit of local government; the Central Local Government Concordat (Dec 2007) agreeing the rights and responsibilities of local government, including effective leadership and empowerment of local communities. Local Area Agreements and National Indicator Set of the new Performance Framework provide further local delivery and assessment mechanisms to address the needs of older people and an ageing society. ▪ In May 2009, The Local Government Association and the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government published “Getting on well together – councils working with older people” with examples of good approaches for delivering in an ageing society. ▪ Further measures are set out in the Opportunity Age refresh, including developing an agreement between national Government, local authorities, primary care trusts, NHS trusts and other local delivery partners to encourage work with local people to recognise the importance of ageing challenges and opportunities, and provide stronger incentives and support for the delivery of local services for people in later life.

4.9	<p>Review of the implementation of a National Service Framework by the Audit Commission, the Healthcare Commission and the Commission for Social Care Inspection has started.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This report was completed in March 2006. The report found that services had improved since the March 2001 publication of the Government's 10 year National Service Framework for Older People. ▪ Subsequent work in DH and DWP (for example, the Dignity in Care campaign launched in late 2006 as well as other initiatives in this list) has continued to promote higher standards. ▪ End of Life Care Strategy : this Strategy, the first for the UK, was published in July 2008. Its aim is to improve care for people approaching the end of life, whatever their diagnosis and wherever they are, including enabling more people to be cared for and die at home if they wish. It covers all adults with advanced, progressive illness and care given in all settings. ▪ The Strategy aims to bring about a step change in access to high quality care for all adults approaching the end of life. Implementation of the Strategy should enhance choice, quality, equality, patient, carer and staff satisfaction and value for money. This will be achieved by: improved community services; workforce training and development; development of specialist palliative care outreach services; development of Quality Markers (issued for consultation on 7 November); setting up a national End of Life Research Initiative. ▪ The Strategy is backed by an additional £286m Government funding, to be invested over the two years to 2011.
4.10	<p>A simple and transparent set of outcomes and indicators to assess progress towards improved quality of life as people age, to be developed, published and periodically reviewed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunity Age indicators were published in 2006, showing indicators in five outcome areas contributing to increased independence and wellbeing in later life. These were updated in 2008 (and published January 2009) to measure progress against the strategy. Data moving in the right direction on 12 indicators; data shows a broadly constant trend on 7 indicators; data moving in the wrong direction on 3 indicators; and the trend cannot be determined on 11 indicators. ▪ The indicator set will be reviewed/developed in light of the new ageing strategy. ▪ In CSR 2007 DWP agreed PSA 17 'Tackle Poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in Later life', focussing on the five outcome areas, with five key indicators. ▪ Delivery Board headed by the Director General of the DWP. PCD monitors progress in the delivery of the PSA. The Board brings together senior officials across government and high level representation from local government and the NHS. The Board is required to provide progress reports for assessment to the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit every six months. ▪ 3 indicators relevant to PSA 17 are included in the set of 198 national local government indicators and Local Area Agreement Targets.

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