

June 2011 Bulletin
Professional series: Policy & Research update

Dear Readers

Many new reports, articles, and official releases involving older people's issues have happened in May.

Highlights in policy were the publication of the poverty statistics (see Money Matters). One thing to note is that the reduction of pensioner poverty has seemed to have stalled, with around 1/6 of pensioners still below the official poverty line. Also, a new index of material deprivation has been added for pensioners, giving us new insight into the extent that material poverty affects them.

In research, one highlight (of many): the DWP research on aspirations for later life brought useful new evidence on what people plan and hope for in later life. It may not come as a surprise that only a third of young adults (aged 16-25) have hopes and aspirations for life after 60, but the findings from the 50-59 age group may be more interesting: only just over half (53 per cent) say they have hopes and ambitions for life after the age of 60, and 25 per cent of them say they "have not really thought about it at all"! The research goes on to give valuable insight into the economic, social and educational background of those who have made plans and those who have not. See the 'Cross-cutting Issues' section for more.

If you haven't seen Age UK's new web site for professionals, with useful information and resources, please visit us! <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/professional-resources-home/?itc=0&ito=2778&itv=1032738837509>

Warm regards
Susan Davidson

This month's Spotlight on:
TIPS FOR BETTER LIGHTING: Living Rooms

Better lighting can be the key to seeing well. For ageing eyes, or for people with sight loss, small changes to lighting can make a big difference to people's vision. In their Good Practice Guide, Thomas Pocklington Trust shows how professionals working with older people can improve lives with lighting. Here are some top tips for Living Rooms.

Read more here: http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/Housing/Pocklington_Trust_good_lighting_in_living_rooms.pdf?itc=0?dtrk=true

Below are the topic areas which are covered in this issue:

Cross-cutting issues A survey on aspirations for later life; age-friendly cities; fairness in end-of-life care lecture; workshop on communicating with non-academics; and creating local impact	Health & wellbeing National falls and bone health audit; NHS management model; guide to patient information and costings; GPs pressure PM over health reform; and NHS mental health framework
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<p>Social care Carers save society money; new Dilnot report; CQC consultation; person-centred support; and OECD – long term care</p>	<p>Communities Can localism work for older people in urban environments? And ‘Pride of Place’ campaign</p>
<p>Money matters New poverty figures, plus material deprivation for pensioners; enquiry into EU pensions policy; personal independence payments; pensioner income series; Silver RPI; and more</p>	<p>Equality & human rights Predictors of attitudes to age across Europe; and the UN’s ‘Open-Ended Working Group on the Rights of Older People’</p>
<p>Work & learning ‘Modern workplaces’ consultation; survey on adult participation in learning; and guidance for helping employers with automatic pension enrolment</p>	<p>Housing & homes Research paper for the Energy Bill; and study on the effect of cold homes on health</p>
<p>Consumers & lifestyle Consultation on water affordability; retail market review; reform of consumer insurance law; PPI legal challenge dismissed; and regulating financial services</p>	<p>International World population statistics; OECD provision and paying for long-term care; UN open-ended working group on the rights of older people; and World Health Statistics 2011</p>
<p>Transport The Strategic Framework for Road Safety, which sets out DfT’s approach to continuing to reduce killed and seriously injured casualties on Britain’s roads.</p>	<p>Computers & technology In case you missed it last month, Ofcom’s 11th Adult Media Literacy Report has been published. This includes information about people aged 65+ on items such as internet and mobile phone use.</p>

June 2011 Policy and Research Bulletin

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

DWP Research Report 737: Aspirations for Later Life

Presents new survey findings on people’s aspirations for later life (that is, aged 60 onwards) in Great Britain. The survey sought to determine whether people hold aspirations for their later life and, if so, what these might be, plus to provide an insight into what are the enablers and barriers to achieving these aspirations.

Questions were asked of adults of all ages, not just those in middle and older age groups to explore when people start thinking about later life and how these attitudes change across the life cycle.

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2011-2012/rrep737.pdf>

Events, Seminars, and Workshops

Age Friendly Cities - 8th June 2011

Can a city-region create a competitive advantage for itself by embedding age-friendliness into its policies and strategies to encourage and support active ageing? Find out more by booking KT-EQUAL's <http://www.kt-equal.org.uk/> exciting workshop with ActiveAge <http://kt-equal.org.uk/calendar/58/30-The-Competitive-Advantage-of-Age-Friendly-Cities>

The Age UK and Institute of Gerontology, Kings College London Annual Lecture

in memory of David Hobman

5.30 – 7.30pm, Monday 20 June 2011

The Great Hall, Kings College London

We are delighted to confirm that the lecture 'Fairness in end of life care - quality or quantity or both?' will be delivered by special guest speaker Professor the Baroness Ilora Finlay. Baroness Finlay is a consultant in palliative medicine at the Velindre Cancer Centre in Cardiff and team leader for the chronic pain management programme. She is also a Professor of Palliative Care Medicine at Cardiff University. Baroness Finlay is a Crossbench Peer in the House of Lords and was President of the Royal Society of Medicine from 2006-2008.

You can reserve your place by emailing eventsdept@ageuk.org.uk or call us on 020 3033 1501

Lost in Translation - 23rd June 2011

Struggling to write that lay summary for more funding? Confused by how social networking can help you connect with other researchers in your field of interest? Then book in for KT-EQUAL's <http://www.kt-equal.org.uk/> FREE workshop run in partnership with CARDI on the 23rd June. <http://kt-equal.org.uk/calendar/58/32-Lost-in-Translation---How-to-communicate-most-effectively-with-non-academics>

Ageing research - creating impact locally - 7th July 2011

How can your research create an impact locally? Can you influence service delivery in your local government? Find out how at the KT-EQUAL <http://www.kt-equal.org.uk/> workshop in July <http://kt-equal.org.uk/calendar/56/31-Ageing-and-Disability-Research-Creating-Impact-Locally>

HEALTH & WELLBEING

National Falls and Bone Health Audit

The Royal College of Physicians has reported on the 2010 audit of falls and bone health services in the UK. A number of healthcare organisations and care homes have reported on their activities relating to prevention, care and treatment of falls and fractures against a set of quality standards.

<http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/resources/national-audit-falls-and-bone-health-older-people>

The future of leadership and management in the NHS: No more heroes – Sara O

At a time of enormous change in the NHS, leaders and managers have a crucial role to play. But what sort of leaders does the service need? Does the model, prevalent in public service over recent years, of the 'hero' chief executive still hold sway?

This King's Fund publication is available to download and in hard copy.

http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/nhs_leadership.html

Patient level information and costing systems, and reference costs best practice guide

This Department of Health guide seeks to identify areas of cost and activity which PLICS organisations need to consider, to produce reference costs and offers best practice suggestions to aid the production of reference costs data.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_126617.pdf

Royal College of GPs pressures PM over health reforms

The Royal College of General Practitioners has written to Prime Minister David Cameron listing changes that must be made to the Health Bill to protect the principles of the NHS.

The analysis paper is called "The Government's Health Reforms: An Analysis of the Need for Clarification and Change."

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/pdf/Government%20Health%20Reforms%20Analysis.pdf>

This paper is provided to inform the Prime Minister of the changes to the Health and Social Care Bill and wider health reform proposals that the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) believes is necessary.

NHS Trust procurement report

The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee has published a report on their findings, 'The procurement of consumables by National Health Service acute and Foundation Trusts'

"There has not been a culture of efficient procurement in the NHS. The lack of data makes it difficult for trust boards to challenge managers on the efficiency of procurement and there has not been sufficient control over procurement practices. At a time when all trusts are required to make efficiency savings - 4% in 2011-12 alone - they should seek to achieve as much of these as possible from improvements in procurement. Without such improvements, there is a risk that trusts will make cuts elsewhere, while at the same time continuing to waste money on inefficient procurement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmpubacc/875/87503.htm>

Applying the NHS performance framework to mental health trusts in 2011/12

This document informs mental health trusts, PCTs and SHAs of the criteria against which mental health performance will be assessed. It should be read alongside Implementing the NHS Performance Framework.

2011/12 implementation guidance - application to mental health trusts

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_127007.pdf

Annex A - mental health trusts service performance 2011/12 (XLS, 68K)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_126990.xls

Annex B - mental health trusts user experience domain

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_127006.pdf

Related document:

The NHS Performance Framework: Implementation guidance - 2011/12

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_126030

World Health Statistics 2011

World Health Statistics 2011 contains WHO's annual compilation of health-related data for its 193 Member States, and includes a summary of the progress made towards achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and associated targets.

<http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat/2011/en/index.html>

SOCIAL CARE

Carers save the state £119bn a year

According to a new study carried out by Carers UK and the University of Leeds, informal carers save the state £119bn a year. This has been calculated on the basis that there are 6.4m carers who would, if they were paid the going rate for professional care, be paid about £18 an hour.

<http://www.carersuk.org/professionals/resources/research-library/item/2123-valuing-carers-2011>

New findings from the Commission on Funding of Care and Support

The Dilnot-led Commission has released its report: Public engagement exploring care and support funding options.

While the majority of people in this research believe both the Government and the individual have a responsibility to contribute to long-term care costs, they want clarity on exactly what they will be expected to pay, along with simple ways to support them in planning for this.

<https://www.wp.dh.gov.uk/carecommission/files/2011/05/TNS-BMRB-Report-of-findings.-final.pdf>

Care Quality Commission launches consultation on excellence in social care

The CQC announced the start of a consultation on a new excellence award for adult social care services in England.

The consultation seeks people's views on a definition of excellence, developed by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), and key aspects of the assessment process.

The consultation closes 1 August 2011.

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/yourviews/consultations/excellenceaward.cfm>

Transforming social care: sustaining person-centred support

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published this book, which offers the first in-depth examination of the development of person-centred support, or 'personalisation', from the perspectives of service users, carers, face-to-face practitioners and middle managers. Working with a diverse range of service users across many different health and social care settings, it explores what person-centred support means to people, how to develop it effectively, what barriers it faces and how these might be overcome.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/transforming-social-care-person-centred-support>

OECD: Providing and Paying for Long-Term Care

Often, policymakers have treated long-term care reform as being too tough a nut to crack, but there are many examples of good practice worthy of emulation. Help Wanted? Providing and Financing Long-Term Care addresses these questions. The publication is the outcome of work undertaken at the OECD during 2009 and 2010. A description of the main goals of the project can be found here.

http://www.oecd.org/document/23/0,3746,en_21571361_44315115_47659479_1_1_1_1,00.html

Other ongoing and past work around long term care by the OECD can be found on their website.

http://www.oecd.org/document/61/0,3746,en_21571361_44315115_35490493_1_1_1_1,00.html

COMMUNITIES

Can Localism work for Older People in Urban Environments?

ILC have launched a report looking at the potential implications of the localism agenda in an urban setting. The research sets out a number of recommendations that aim to ensure that the views of all people are considered in new local decision-making processes. <http://www.ilcuk.org.uk/record.jsp?type=publication&ID=89>

Pride of Place

Age UK has just launched a new campaign calling on local councillors to take a lead in improving neighbourhoods for older people within their wards. Age UK is inviting councillors to become 'Pride of Place' advocates who will work with Age UK and our partners to listen to the views of older people and then initiate and coordinate change to make neighbourhoods more 'age-friendly'.

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/prideofplace>

MONEY MATTERS

New poverty figures published

The annual DWP Households Below Average Income report provides a range of data on low income households. The latest report which covers up to 2009-10 shows pensioner poverty levels (Chapter 6) have not changed – there are still 1.8 million (16%) living in poverty. The report also includes a new measure of material deprivation. This indicates 9% of people aged 65 and over are materially deprived of whom 2% are also in poverty on the income measure. (See item on material deprivation below)

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai_arc

New measure of pensioner poverty

A new way of measuring older people's quality of life will have been introduced by the Government.

A 'material deprivation' indicator for pensioners will capture wider elements of everyday life many that people take for granted but are in fact key indications of older people's experiences.

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai/technical_note_20110307.pdf

New inquiry: EU pensions policy

The Work and Pensions Committee plans to take oral evidence in June on EU pensions policy. Issues which the evidence session is expected to cover include:

- The EU Green Paper on Pensions
- Reform of the Institutions for Occupational Retirement Provision (IORP) Directive
- EU support for member states' efforts to ensure the adequacy of retirement income

In advance of the evidence session, short submissions (no more than 3,000 words) are invited from interested organisations and individuals.

Submissions should be in Word or rich text format, not PDF format, and sent by email to toworkpencom@parliament.uk The deadline for written evidence is 13 June 2011.

For further guidance on the submission of evidence see the Parliamentary website.

www.parliament.uk/get-involved/have-your-say/take-part-in-committee-inquiries/witness/

Personal Independence Payment

The Government has published briefing notes and draft assessment regulations which provide more information about the proposed Personal Independent Payment which will replace Disability Living Allowance. This is part of the Welfare Reform Bill currently before Parliament.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform/legislation-and-key-documents/welfare-reform-bill-2011/personal-independence-payment-briefing/>

Pensioners' incomes series - 2009/10

The latest national statistics on The Pensioners' Incomes (PI) Series is produced by the Department for Work and Pensions.

It contains estimates and interpretation of trends in the levels and sources of pensioners' incomes in the UK, based on two household surveys. Information on the latest year (and the eleven preceding years) is based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS), while historical trends are examined using the Family Expenditure Survey (FES).

This latest release updates the statistics previously released on 20th May 2010.

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=pensioners_income

Other welfare reform publications

The Government has also produced impact assessments and equality impact assessments for the welfare reform bill plus briefing notes on aspects of Universal Credit.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform/legislation-and-key-documents/welfare-reform-bill-2011/universal-credit-briefing/>

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform/legislation-and-key-documents/welfare-reform-bill-2011/impact-assessments-and-equality/>

PPF's new levy framework

The Pension Protection Fund announced details of its new pension protection levy framework which will take effect from 2012/13. 'The Pension Protection Levy: A New Framework' follows extensive consultation.

http://www.pensionprotectionfund.org.uk/DocumentLibrary/Documents/levy_policy_statement_May11.pdf

Silver RPI: Impact of inflation for those in later life

Latest findings of the Silver RPI published by Age UK Enterprises, the commercial services arm of charity Age UK, show that since 2008 the extra increase in prices measured by the Silver RPI, relative to the Headline RPI, is now costing the average over 55 year old an additional £918 (1) per year. This amount rises for some older age groups, with an average 65-69 year old facing additional costs each year of £1,054 (2) since 2008.

http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/silver_rpi_wave_3_white_paper.pdf

Winter Fuel Payment to EEA residents

Statistics on the number of payments made to eligible individuals living in European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland who qualified for a payment before leaving the UK.

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/wfp/WFP_EEA_residents.xls

EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS

DWP Research Report 735: Predictors of Attitudes to Age across Europe

In the context of Europe's ageing population an important challenge is how to respond to people's assumptions and expectations about age and ageing. Attitudes to age can affect people of all ages, and involve people's views both of themselves and of others. These attitudes have important implications for individual well-being, for age equality and for social cohesion. Understanding attitudes to age is essential if governments are to develop appropriate strategies for an ageing population.

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2011-2012/rrep735.pdf>

Open-Ended Working Group on the Rights of Older People

The UN held the first session of its Open-Ended Working Group looking at how to strengthen the rights of older people from 18-21 April 2011. Summaries, evidence and presentations are all available on their website (<http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/firstsession.shtml>). The next meeting is scheduled for 1-5 August 2011.

WORK & LEARNING

Modern Workplaces

BIS and the Home Office published their consultation into 'Modern Workplaces', which is an umbrella document looking at four areas: i) shared parental leave; ii) flexible working, iii) working time, and iv) equal pay.

Age UK is particularly interested in flexible working, as we believe that introducing a right to request for all employees could be beneficial for individuals, businesses and the UK economy. There is already a great deal of flexible working that takes place, and we believe that having a formal process will provide a 'nudge' to employers to introduce such measures, and supplement informal agreements between organisations and their staff.

The deadline for the consultation is 8 August.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2011/May/modern-workplaces>

NIACE Annual Survey on Adult Participation in Learning

This year's results show a fall in the number of people engaging in learning, consistent across all age groups. Among people aged 55-64 the total engaged in current or recent learning activity (defined as the past three years) has fallen from 33% in 2010 to 29% in 2011; for those aged 65-74 participation has fallen from 23% to 17%; and for the 75+s is has fallen from 14% to 11%.

Among people who are retired, only 15% are have undertaken learning in the past three years, compared to 20% in 2010. This decline has led NIACE to conclude that the recession has been bad for engagement in learning for everyone aged over 25.

Another interesting finding, commissioned by Age UK, is that among people aged 50+, 49% are engaged in learning for leisure. Among these people, the most popular topic by some distance is digital inclusion. This possibly reflects Government

attempts to help people online, and also efforts by organisations like Age UK, for example through our My Friends Online and Itea and Biscuits weeks.

This publication is only available as a hard copy from the NIACE website.

<http://www.niace.org.uk/news/tough-times-for-adult-learners-survey-shows?src=fp2nd-more>

Helping employers with automatic enrolment

In the next 6 months, nearly 600 of the largest organisations employing about a third of the UK workforce (around 10m employees) will have received letters alerting them to their new pension duties. In due course, every employer in the UK will have received at least two letters as they approach their duty date.

The Pensions Regulator is now providing the following information:

Summary of duties (PDF) - a five-page overview of the new duties for employers. Know your date - employers can check their indicative staging date for the new duties. <http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/pensions-reform/duty-dates-timeline.aspx>

Employer checklist (PDF) - for large employers that will be receiving letters from the regulator in coming months, this includes straightforward tips on knowing when to act, starting the planning process, implementing the duties and communicating the changes to staff. Detailed guidance - this covers all aspects of workplace pension reform legislation, and is designed to be suitable for large employers with experience of providing pensions, advisers and intermediaries. <http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/pensions-reform/detailed-guidance.aspx>

Software guidance - released in April to over 500 payroll professionals, this guidance is helping payroll software developers implement changes to their products, better enabling them to support employers. <http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/pensions-reform/software-developers.aspx>

HOUSING & HOMES

Energy Bill - Research paper

The House of Commons Library has published a research paper on the Energy Bill.

The flagship policy in the Bill is the “Green Deal”, a scheme whereby homes would be given finance upfront to make energy efficiency improvements, which would then be paid for by energy bill savings.

The Bill also introduces a range of other measures designed to improve energy efficiency; and provides measures designed to help improve energy security, to encourage low carbon generation and to grant additional powers to the Coal Authority to charge for certain services.

<http://www.parliament.uk/briefingpapers/commons/lib/research/rp2011/RP11-036.pdf>

The health impacts of cold homes and fuel poverty

Last week saw the publication of an important report by Prof Sir Michael Marmot and his report team for Friends of the Earth, looking at the health impacts of cold homes and fuel poverty. The report concludes that excess winter deaths (above what would normally be expected) are almost three times higher in the coldest quarter of housing than in the warmest quarter. As a result, thousands of deaths could be prevented each year if British homes were made more energy efficient.

http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/cold_homes_health.pdf

CONSUMER & LIFESTYLE

OFT market study into mobility aids

The Office of Fair Trading has published the emerging findings from its market study into mobility aids. It suggests that a number of consumers are unaware of the price they should expect to pay for a mobility aid. Many are reliant on salespeople coming to their home because they did not have access to the internet and/or were unable to visit retail shops because of poor mobility. Many of the 4,000 complaints Consumer Direct has received in recent years about mobility aids also related to sales in the home, and there were also complaints on misleading or aggressive sales practices. The OFT has not yet reached any final conclusions, and has asked for further evidence to be sent to it by 17 June 2011. <http://www.offt.gov.uk/OFTwork/markets-work/current/mobility-aids/>

Advice Trends for 2010/11

Citizens Advice has published its regular summary of advice statistics. It shows that 79% of their clients were aged 25-64, with 11% aged under 25 and 10% aged 65 or over. This has not changed. However, there were a significant number of enquiries about age discrimination in employment (9% of employment discrimination enquiries). There was also a 24% increase in tax problems.

http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/advice_trends

Appendix 3 contains top level regional summaries, as well as full national advice statistics.

Consultation on water affordability

The previous Government commissioned an independent review of charging for household water and sewerage services – The Walker Review. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has issued a consultation in response to the Walker Review, with a closing date of 17 June 2011.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/04/05/water-affordability-1104/>

Ofgem Retail Market Review

Ofgem has published the findings of its review of retail energy markets. Its finds that consumers are at risk from a number of features in the market that serve to reduce the effectiveness of competition. Of particular concern is the growing complexity of pricing information. Ofgem has put forward a number of proposals for reform, including making it simpler for domestic consumers to compare prices and choose a better detail. Response to the proposals should be submitted to Ofgem by 1 June 2011.

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Pages/MoreInformation.aspx?file=RMR_FINAL.pdf&refer=Markets/RetMkts/rmr

Reform of consumer insurance law

The Government has introduced the Consumer Insurance (Disclosure and Representations) Bill, which aims to radically change the relationship between consumers and insurance providers. The Bill will give certainty to consumers and insurers by shifting the emphasis away from a consumer's duty to disclose all necessary information, to a requirement for insurers to ask particular questions and obtain specific information about their customers, before they issue an insurance policy. This reform is supported by Age UK as it will provide better protection for older people with medical conditions.

<http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/8932.htm>

Payment Protection Insurance – legal challenge dismissed

The British Bankers' Association has accepted the High Court's dismissal of their legal challenge to the Financial Services Authority's requirements for handling complaints on PPI. Banks must now get on with handling PPI complaints and paying redress where appropriate. There have been more than 1.5 million complaints made about PPI since the FSA took over regulation of PPI in 2005.

<http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Communication/PR/2011/041.shtml>

Regulating Financial Services – Age UK response on product intervention

Age UK has responded to the Financial Services Authority's discussion paper on how it, and in future the new conduct authority, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), should pursue the objective of consumer protection. Age UK strongly supports FSA's proposals to increase product intervention. The discussion paper interacts with recent consultation papers from the Treasury on the future of financial services regulation and on options for simple financial products.

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Policy/DP/2011/11_01.shtml

INTERNATIONAL

World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision

This is the latest revision of the UN's population database. The database is now more user-friendly, with at-a-glance country data. You can find out the numbers and proportions of older people in individual countries, by region, and by development status.

<http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/index.htm>

OECD: Providing and Paying for Long-Term Care

Often, policymakers have treated long-term care reform as being too tough a nut to crack, but there are many examples of good practice worthy of emulation. Help Wanted? Providing and Financing Long-Term Care addresses these questions. The publication is the outcome of work undertaken at the OECD during 2009 and 2010. A description of the main goals of the project can be found here.

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World Health Statistics 2011

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<http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat/2011/en/index.html>

TRANSPORT

Strategic Framework for Road Safety

The Strategic Framework for Road Safety sets out DfT's approach to continuing to reduce killed and seriously injured casualties on Britain's roads. The strategy has a twin focus on education for those drivers seen as making genuine mistakes and enforcement for dangerous drivers. This was launched on the same day as the launch of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011 - 2021.

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/strategicframework/>

http://www.makeroadssafe.org/publications/Documents/decade_is_action_booklet.pdf

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

Ofcom 11th Adult Media Literacy Report

In case you missed it last month, this new Ofcom Report has been published. It notes that internet take-up has risen for older people aged 55-64 who are now at the UK average (74%), but those aged 65+ are still considerably lower than average in terms of household internet take-up (35% v 74%). The report introduces the concept of "narrow users". Narrow users of the internet are defined as those that carry out 1-6 out of a possible 18 types of online activity. This group accounts for two in ten of all internet users (19%), down from three in ten in 2009 (28%). Older people are more likely to be Narrow users.

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/media-literacy/medlitpub/medlitpubrss/adultmedialitreport11/>