

Showcasing UK Age Research



Older People's Use of Health and Social Care Services

Overview Report on a Research Programme to Support
the National Service Framework for Older People

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UK Age Research: Professor Janet M Askham



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The OPUS Research Initiative – Projects



- **Older people's needs and experiences:**
 - cross-cultural study of dementia;
 - palliative care needs of non-cancer patients;
 - hospital discharge;
 - timing of palliative care.
- **Evaluation of new initiatives:**
 - tool for ambulance crews;
 - follow-up after stroke;
 - specialist services;
 - treatment for late life depression in primary care.
- **Service or system change:**
 - nursing care in care homes;
 - intermediate care (x3);
 - education in palliative care;
 - single assessment process
 - delayed discharge.

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The OPUS Research Initiative – NSF Themes & Standards



- **Respecting the individual:**
 - rooting out age discrimination;
 - fostering person-centred care;
- **Developing intermediate care options.**
- **Evidence-based specialist care:**
 - appropriate hospital care;
 - improving stroke and falls services;
 - improving mental health of older people;
- **Promoting an active healthy life.**

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The OPUS Research Initiative – key tensions



- **healthy ageing vs old age as decline;**
- **specialist vs generalist services;**
- **person-centred care vs standardisation;**
- **high quality services vs funding limitations;**
- **rehabilitation/recovery vs long-term care;**
- **integration vs fragmentation;**
- **process and pathways vs static services.**

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The OPUS Research Initiative – conclusions



- **health maintenance and promotion;**
- **long-term care continuity;**
- **processes of care;**
- **community mental health services;**
- **recognising heterogeneity;**
- **confronting ageism.**

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