

Research Article:	LGA, D. (2009) ' <i>Getting on well together: councils working with older people</i> ', Local Government Association. London: KLM Press. Available from: <a href="http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/publications/publication-display.do?id=1871681">http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/publications/publication-display.do?id=1871681</a>
Topic of Article:	This article is concerned with how to provide for older people's social needs and how to minimise financial cost implications of having an older society.
Summary of Research Article:	<p>This publication believes that a way to do that is to work with older people and ask their views and experiences and involve them in all aspects of service provision and delivery. In doing this the Local Government Association believe that work can be refocused toward prevention strategies and interventions enabling the older person to lead active, normal lives.</p> <p>Service providers and other members of society need to recognise that older people are not a burden but do have a lot to contribute to society in an important way, such as being volunteers, professionals or carers.</p> <p>The publication collected information from eight local authorities who agreed to answer a questionnaire and participate in interviews and also utilised case studies of which strategies were found to work well. The study found that when evaluating older people services with a view to making changes the following are needed: the use of outcome measures; the engagement of the whole council; the sharing of internal and external data; appropriate engagement with different communities; involvement of older people at all stages; evaluation of all outcomes, even those that are successful; and review and update of actions where necessary on a continual basis.</p> <p>Four different types of initiative were identified in the local authorities to improve outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. strategic frameworks – older people are engaged in the shaping of the strategy and the evaluation of its implementation.</li> <li>2. social networks – these may be run by older people to provide support, and those providing the support might also gain support from the others involved. A good example of how this works is the 'Leeds Neighbourhood Network Schemes', which is run by older people and provides all types of support needed.</li> <li>3. information – it is important to give older people information which is easily accessible, timely and accurate; this gives them more control and choice.</li> <li>4. targeted action – providing interventions for older people that target areas of concern is important to promote well being, health and independence. For example, falls and assessment prevention; shopping; and cleaning and gardening services.</li> </ol>
Conclusions:	<p>The publication derived key messages from its findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to think differently about older people – this means listening to what they want and need. In order to do this we need to: build networks within communities where older people can have a role within all generations; recognise diversity; nurture and develop the skills of older people; promote positive images about ageing; and give older people the power to shape services.</li> <li>• Older people should be involved in all policies and strategies in every service that they use. Service deliverers should ask older people what they think about the services, what needs to change and how this can be changed for the better. The older person should be an equal partner in all aspects of the service from conception and delivery to evaluation.</li> </ul>

Where to find more:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Changing Needs of Older People, Open University <a href="http://www.uni-ulm.de/LiLL/5.0/E/5.3/needs.html">http://www.uni-ulm.de/LiLL/5.0/E/5.3/needs.html</a></li><li>• Assessing older people's health and social needs, Health Education Authority <a href="http://www.nice.org.uk/niceMedia/documents/assess_older_health.pdf">http://www.nice.org.uk/niceMedia/documents/assess_older_health.pdf</a></li><li>• Promoting social networks for older people in community aged care, Social Policy Research Centre, <a href="http://www.bensoc.org.au/uploads/documents/research-to-practice-briefing2-OLDER%20PEOPLES%20SOCIAL%20NETWORKS-feb2009.pdf">http://www.bensoc.org.au/uploads/documents/research-to-practice-briefing2-OLDER%20PEOPLES%20SOCIAL%20NETWORKS-feb2009.pdf</a></li><li>• Maintaining prosperity in an ageing society, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development <a href="http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/21/10/2430300.pdf">http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/21/10/2430300.pdf</a></li></ul>
---------------------	--