

Response ID ANON-FCSC-AXCQ-C

Submitted to Self-Funders in Care Homes
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Your Details

1 What is your name?

What is your name? :
Elizabeth Webb

2 What is your email address?

What is your email address? :
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About You

3 Are you responding to this survey in a personal or a professional capacity?

Professional

4 If responding in a professional capacity, what sector do you work in?

Third sector, including charities and think tanks

Enter sector:

5 Are you responding to this survey on behalf of an organisation or a group?

Yes, I am responding on behalf of an organisation

If you selected 'Yes', please provide the name of the organisation or group. :

Age UK

If you selected 'Yes', please state your title or role within the organisation or group. :

Head of Research

6 Where is your organisation or group based?

London

Questions

7 What is your interest in this area?

What is your interest in this area? :

Age UK has a long running campaign for the reform of social care, and so research into social care forms a substantial part of the research we undertake. As acknowledged by ONS, and by last year's Office for Statistics Regulation review of adult social care statistics, there have been limited official statistics published on adult social care. This has meant that organisations like ours have often been reliant on private providers of data, data published by NHS Digital and our own analysis of survey data. Each of these data sources have their own limitations, so the planned program of work from ONS will contribute to our empirical understanding of the social care landscape.

8 To what extent has this publication helped meet your user need:

To some extent

Please explain why you chose the above response:

We welcome today's release on self-funders of residential care, and look forward to seeing the outputs of the further work that ONS is planning to do in this area. We are particularly interested to see the planned similar analysis of recipients of domiciliary care, analysis of the characteristics of recipients of social care, and any predictions of the need for social care - whether self- or state-funded, domiciliary or residential - in the future. Further analyses - as outlined in my response to questions 10 and 12 below - would address other data needs we have.

9 How will you use the data and how will this data help you?

How will you use the data and how will this data help you?:

We will use this data to inform our policy and campaigning work, to engage with the public via the media and directly through our campaigns, to communicate with members of parliament and other key decision makers including relevant civil servants. This data will provide us, and those we communicate with, with a better understanding of the market for social care in its entirety rather than the partial view which is provided by some existing data sources.

10 Which elements of the data and content would you want us to improve?

Which elements of the data and content would you want us to improve for you to be more likely to use it?:

Within the care home market there are residents who are solely funded by the state, who are solely self-funded, and a third category who are funded by the state but pay additional - often quite substantial - 'top up' fees from their own funds. If you were able to disaggregate these three groups in your future analysis this would be extremely helpful.

As an organisation which exists to support and represent older people, any analysis which separates out the social care provided to older people from that provided to younger adults is very useful.

Some of our work involves informing MPs about social care in their constituencies - analysis at this geographic level would be particularly useful.

11 Is there anything we could change about the methodology which could improve these data?

Is there anything we could change about the methodology which could improve your likelihood of using these data?:

12 Do you have any suggestions for future publications?(For example: additional or alternative data sources, different methods, other characteristics of care homes or residents)

Do you have any suggestions for future publications? (For example: Additional or alternative data sources, different methods, other characteristics of care homes or residents):

The following analyses would provide unique insight into adult social care:

* The amount people pay for their care, considering whether they are state- or self-funded, and if they pay top-ups, what their care needs are, region of residence and area level deprivation. The most detailed work in this area is currently undertaken by LaingBuisson, but their data are not publicly available.

* Longitudinal analyses of care recipients' progress through the system. Currently, for instance, there is very little data even on the average amount of time people live in care homes. Additionally it would be valuable to have more complex data on people's receipt of care over time. This sort of analysis might be best undertaken using detailed longitudinal survey data such as that in the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing.

13 Would you like to be kept informed about further developments/releases for our self-funders work?

Would you like to be kept informed about further developments/releases for our self-funders work?:

Yes please.

...and Finally

14 Do you have any other comments about this survey?

Do you have any other comments about this consultation [or survey]? :

15 How did you, or the organisation or group that you are responding on behalf of, hear about this survey?

ONS email or newsletter