

ELDERLY



Why do the elderly make greater use of medical services?

- ✚ Need regular check ups
- ✚ More likely to pick up illnesses and find it harder to shake off illnesses when they do get them
- ✚ Frail, brittle bones means that if they fall more likely to break a bone
- ✚ When in hospital they take longer to recover so make more use of hospital beds
- ✚ Many need tablets etc. and get free prescriptions
- ✚ More likely to have hearing and sight problems

How has modern technology helped elderly in the home?

- ✦ Electric chair lifts to help with mobility problems of getting up stairs
- ✦ Bath hoists or lifts to help get in and out of baths
- ✦ Aid call alarms- worn round the neck to call for help 24 hours a day
- ✦ Powered vehicles to help get around
- ✦ **"Smart Houses"** for dementia sufferers-
 - 1) sensors to check gas, electricity, lights are off
 - 2) Picture Telephone,
 - 3) Locator for keys, glasses, purses

How has modern technology helped the treatment of elderly in hospitals

- ✦ **Modern surgery**, such as key hole surgery can make the difference between life and death
- ✦ **Monitoring** using computers (heartbeat, breathing)- any changes can be dealt with straight away
- ✦ **Body scanners** can find problems like cancer, brain problems before it is too late
- ✦ **Cataract surgery**- many elderly would be blind without it
- ✦ **Plastic Hip and Joint Replacement**- allows many elderly to walk who might have been forced into wheelchairs

Community Care

Elderly cared for in the community (home) rather than in hospitals

- ✂ Frees hospital beds for those who really need them
- ✂ Regular visits from GPs, nurses etc. would mean elderly still get a good standard of care
- ✂ Social work department looks at each individual case and decides on what type of action is best so person gets best possible care
- ✂ Elderly person keeps their independence by staying at home

- ✂ Residential accommodation are more concerned with profit than the care of the elderly
- ✂ To save money residential homes often employ poorly trained people
- ✂ Some people are kept in the community when they are unable to look after themselves
- ✂ Community care is good in some areas of the country and poor in others

● How National Government helps meet the Needs of the Elderly

- ✦ **Pension-** weekly amount paid to elderly (£70)
- ✦ **Income Support-** Means tested benefit for those who do not have a good occupational pension or savings
- ✦ **Cold Weather Payments-** Paid to those on income support when the weather is below 0 degrees for 7 days
- ✦ **Disability Living Allowance-** Payment to long term sick or disabled
- ✦ **Community Care Grant-** Money given to adapt house so they can remain in the community

● How Local Government helps meet the Needs of the Elderly

- ✦ Homecarers- help clean elderly persons house etc.
- ✦ Meals on Wheels- deliver meals to the elderly
- ✦ Sheltered Housing and Adapting Homes
- ✦ Housing Benefit- money towards paying their rent
- ✦ Free Bus Travel
- ✦ Reduced Prices for Council Facilities (leisure centres, theatres)



Types of Elderly Accommodation

- 1) Sheltered Housing
- 2) Residential Homes
- 3) Nursing Homes
- 4) Adapting own home or relatives
- 5) Moving in with relatives

Sheltered Housing

- ✦ Housing designed especially for the elderly and allows them to still be independent without moving into a home
- ✦ They are built on one level or have lifts
- ✦ 24 hour warden service to help if needed
- ✦ Alarms fitted throughout the apartments
- ✦ Handrails
- ✦ Common room and laundry facilities

Residential Homes

- ✚ E.g. Thorneycroft
- ✚ Each person has a **key worker** who is there for the person and should get to know their likes and dislikes
- ✚ Trained staff 24 hours a day
- ✚ All meals provided
- ✚ Handrails and lifting equipment
- ✚ Visits from hairdressers, doctors and pensions collected
- ✚ Lounges for elderly to socialise
- ✚ Organise social activities (concerts, quiz)

Nursing Homes

- ✦ Particularly for those with sickness or illness
- ✦ All the facilities of residential homes
- ✦ Fully qualified nurses 24 hours a day who know the needs of the elderly
- ✦ Nurse call alarms in all bedrooms
- ✦ Specially designed diets to meet medical needs

Adapting Homes

- ✚ Changing 2 floor house to having everything on bottom floor
- ✚ Stair lifts, grab handles and hoists
- ✚ Ramps for wheelchairs
- ✚ Doors widened and worktops lowered for wheelchair users
- ✚ =Keeps independence and cheaper

● Why are some elderly better off than others?

- ✚ They had well paid jobs and could save well for their retirement
- ✚ Good occupational pension
- ✚ They have taken out a private pension
- ✚ They have a wealthy family to help

Other types of help

FAMILIES

- ✂ Financial Help
- ✂ Accommodation
- ✂ Care, love and affection

● Voluntary Organisations- Age Concern- What does it do?

- ✎ Gives advice and information to elderly on what they are entitled to
- ✎ Set up groups and lunch clubs to meet other elderly

- ✎ Raises awareness of problems of the elderly and acts as a pressure group
- ✎ Try to raise pensions

- Gives money to local organisations to develop services for the elderly
- Advice offered on benefits to help with heating