

Press release

For immediate use

New website to improve services for older people

A new website will help public sector staff to better understand the needs of older people.

The website will help professionals to tailor their work so older people have greater choice and control over the support they receive.

The Independent Living and Older People Resource is aimed at staff that commission or develop services for older people. It is part of the government's Independent Living Strategy.

The website was developed by the Office for Disability Issues, working with the Centre for Policy on Ageing and the National Development Team for Inclusion.

Tim Cooper, Director of the Office for Disability Issues, says: "As people get older, they are more likely to develop an impairment or long-term health condition. Almost half of disabled people are over State Pension Age.*"

"This new resource is a practical example of the government's commitment to ensure that disabled people have the right support at every stage of their lives to maintain their independence.

"This resource will help policy-makers to understand the principles of independent living and to create services based on them."

The website explains the concept of independent living and includes practical tips on how to plan, commission and provide appropriate support for older people.

Visit the website at www.independentlivingresource.org.uk

* Source: Family Resource Survey 2007/8

Notes to editor

- The Office for Disability Issues is a cross-government organisation that is working towards equality for disabled people. Its website is www.odi.gov.uk
- The Office for Disability Issues published the Independent Living Strategy in March 2008. This sets out the government's commitments to improving the life chances of disabled people needing support: www.odi.gov.uk/working/independent-living
- The National Development Team for Inclusion is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes inclusion and equality for people who risk exclusion and who need support to lead a full life. Its website is www.ndti.org.uk
- The Centre for Policy on Ageing is an independent centre for research and information serving policymakers, practitioners and researchers working on issues affecting older people. Its website is www.cpa.org.uk

Contacts

For information please contact Catherine Chan at the Office for Disability Issues on 020 7449 5015 or catherine.chan@dwp.gsi.gov.uk