

## SSPARC

### Annual Festival of Social Science 2015

#### Presentation

Going it alone: Older people and self-funded care

#### Speaker

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#### Abstract

In England, approximately 45 per cent of residential care places, 47.6 per cent of nursing home places and 20 per cent of 'home care support' is paid for entirely by older people themselves (Commission on Funding of Care and Support 2011). This is set to increase within the context of an ageing population, rising care needs and further cuts in public funding for social care. Currently 87 per cent of adults live in local authorities where funding thresholds are set to meet substantial or critical needs only (NAO 2014, 4). People who self-fund their own care have been described as 'lost to the system' and the most disadvantaged and isolated in the whole care system (Henwood 2010). Not only are people who self-fund often faced with finding and managing care services without reliable access to advice and support at times of change and uncertainty; their voice and lived experience play little part in the planning and development of social care services. The Care Act 2014 introduces new statutory responsibilities towards those who fund their own social care and this paper explores the current knowledge base on self-funders as well as the implications of changing legal, policy and practice frameworks. It draws on a pilot study currently being undertaken in Brighton and Hove which seeks to address the gap in knowledge on older people's experiences of funding their own care. It is being carried out collaboratively with Age UK Brighton and Hove and a team of older co-researchers.

#### References

Commission on Funding of Care and Support (2011) *Fairer Care Funding – The Report of the Commission on Funding of Care and Support*. London: Stationery Office.

Henwood, M (2010) *Journeys without maps: The decisions and destinations of people who self-fund*, Melanie Henwood Associates.

National Audit Office (NAO) (2014) *Adult Social Care in England: An overview*, London, National Audit Office.