|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Content type* | **Publication** | |
| *Date* | 20 June 2011 | |
| *Title* | **Ageing, Health and Innovation: Policy Reforms to Facilitate Healthy and Active Ageing in OECD Countries** | |
| *Excerpt* | A background paper for the OECD on policy reforms to support active and healthy ageing. | |
| *Body copy* | All OECD countries are experiencing unprecedented demographic change characterised by increasing longevity, a growing older population and falling birth rates. While significant differences remain between different OECD countries, the long term trends are similar and convergence looks likely to occur in the coming decadees. These demographic changes are leading to a lower old age dependency ratio (the ratio of working age to non-working age people), which presents challenges for the social solidarity and long-term sustainability of health, social care and pensions systems.  The paper outlines two philosophically different ways of approaching the challenge of demographic change. The first, which the paper calls the "zero sum approach" is to see it as a problem that requires today's working people to pay more and those drawing on social security systems to receive reduced benefits and to rely more on themselves. This approach risk intergenerational conflict as "productive" working people are asked to pay more to support the healthcare, social care and pensions of non-working people who may be perceived as having had an easier life.  The second way of looking at the problem is to take a life course approach. The life course approach sees demographic change as a challenge and an opportunity. Different generations do not compete for resources and all can play constructive albeit different roles in society. The life course approach believes that policy reform should be innovative and seek to support active and healthy ageing rather than simply increase contributions and cut benefits.  The paper looks at a number of innovative policy reforms in different OECD countries including health checks for the over 40s in the UK, Japan's long term care insurance system and the use of mobile phone technology to support older people or people with chronic diseases.  Author: Rebecca Taylor | |
| *Category (choose one only)* | Culture and society  Finance and wealth  Health and care systems | Infrastructure  Productivity |
| *Culture and society topics (choose more than one if relevant)* | Arts and music  Community  Digital connections  Families  Identity | Inequalities  Isolation  Loneliness  Relationships  Social connections |
| *Finance and wealth topics (choose more than one if relevant)* | Advice  Debt  Financial planning  Housing wealth | Investments  Pensions  Personal finance  Savings |
| *Health and care systems topics (choose more than one if relevant)* | Cancer  Care homes  Dementia  Hearing loss  Immunisation | NHS  Nutrition and hydration  Prevention  Sight loss  Social care |
| *Infrastructure topics (choose more than one if relevant)* | Built environment  Education | Housing  Transport |
| *Productivity topics (choose more than one if relevant)* | Consumption  Employment  GDP  Growth | Opportunity of longevity  Recruitment  Training  Work |
| *Themes* | BME  Cost  Emerging issue  Funding  Good practice  Immigration  Innovation  Intergenerational  International | LGBT  Life expectancy  Older consumers  Policy  Providers  Technology  Welfare  Workforce |