

Draft v1.0



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“Putting it all Together”

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The Vision of Caring – The Next Steps

The 4 year [research and consultation study](#)¹ carried out by [The Debenham Project](#)² has developed a completely new approach, known as “The Vision of Caring”, to the provision of health, social and housing care for the elderly frail in the community. The central feature of the model is the Comprehensive Community Care Trust (CCCT) integrating together all the key elements of care at the local (working) level so that the community can take on the responsibility for much of the provision of care for its ageing population. The approach has been designed to naturally map the needs of the elderly frail, to maximise the amount of caring capability in the community, to minimise the need for remote hospitalisation, residential, nursing, and dementia care, and to implement a person-centred and holistic ethos.

The study examined all the key aspects, including building a [comprehensive cost benefit model](#)³, and concluded that the “Vision” not only offered a significant improvement in the quality of care delivered to the elderly, but would also deliver significant overall savings compared with the current cost of health and social care provision (circa £400,000 pa on an annual cost of £5.2M for the Debenham catchment). It also suggests that the model can address the structural difficulties facing the NHS with regard to the care of the elderly frail.

Implementing the “Vision of Caring” does require both investment in infrastructure and some changes of practice. However, based upon the financial model, the return on the investment will be in the region of 8 – 10% depending upon the interest rate. It is believed that, considering the potential benefits in improved quality of care for the elderly, this is an attractive figure.

¹ <http://www.the-debenham-project.org.uk/downloads/articles/2014/Putting%20it%20all%20Together%20-%20The%20Vision%20of%20Caring.pdf>

² <http://www.the-debenham-project.org.uk/>

³ http://the-debenham-project.org.uk/downloads/steeringdocs/index6/Putting_it_all_Together_Chapter13_Economic_Modelling_sseang5.pdf

We believe that the ideas presented by the research study need to be explored on the basis that:

1. The NHS is having serious difficulties in meeting the demand presented by our ageing population and realistically cannot be expected to manage the medium to long term projected growth in demand in its current form.
2. The cost of caring for someone, in both domiciliary and residential settings, is rising alongside a rapidly increasing demand in both volume and quality, but the means for paying for it is, at best, static.
3. The provision of health and residential care is becoming increasingly centred on larger and more specialised units creating [major problems for the elderly in rural communities](#)⁴.
4. The basic structure of the NHS [does not reflect the nature of the health care needs of the elderly frail](#)⁵.
5. Current initiatives will provide some breathing space but not a medium to longer term solution.

Therefore, a quantum change, is needed which can only come from encouraging and sponsoring new approaches such as “The Vision of Caring”.

The steps which we would like to see:

1. Presentation of the study to the Board of the STP.
2. Detailed review of the work carried out by The Debenham Project.
3. Funded extension of the study.
4. Initiation of one or more pilots.
5. Review of the results.
6. Initiation of a process to roll out the successful schemes.

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⁴ http://www.the-debenham-project.org.uk/downloads/steeringdocs/index6/Putting_it_all_Together_Chapter4_Strategic_Issues%28Rural%29_onfrii2.pdf

⁵ http://the-debenham-project.org.uk/downloads/steeringdocs/index6/Putting_it_all_Together_Chapter16_Structural_and_Systemic_Issues_with_the_NHS_and_Social_Services_tmulti2.pdf