

Alert over elderly with no family carers

BY 2017, there will not be enough relations to care for the rising number of elderly people, a think tank claims.

The Institute for Public Policy Research says in a report the gap of those without adult children to care for them will rise to more than a million by 2030.

The report on the rising costs of care shows the average fee an older person pays for home care is £25,000 a year and £36,000 for a place in a nursing home.

Clare McNeil, an IPPR senior research fellow, said: "The supply of unpaid care to older people with support needs by their adult children will not keep pace with future demand.

"Thousands of people in their 60s and 70s today could be left to cope on their own, with overstretched services unable to make up the shortfall.

"Britain needs to build new community institutions capable of sustaining us through the changes ahead."

The think tank says there are good examples in Germany, Japan and Australia which could be followed.

These show how properly constructed neighbourhoods can help other family members help meet care needs.

The report is part of wider IPPR research into social policy called the Condition of Britain. A final report will be published in June.

Caroline Abrahams, of Age UK, said this approach was suitable only "for people who need modest amounts of support".

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14