The Joseph Rowntree Foundation’s Older People’s programme has been developed with, and primarily by, older people. It is about the lives of older people when they need ‘that bit of help’. Some of this is about mainstream services, but mostly it is about older people’s own views about what helps them to live well in later life.

Many of the publications included here highlight what is needed and what is happening from the point of view of older people themselves. They present findings from projects on a range of areas, including older people’s involvement, independence, finances, advocacy, information and advice services, and race and ethnicity.

**Does money matter? Older people’s views of their monetary resources**

*Glenda Cook, Jan Reed, Susan Childs and Amanda Hall*

This report addresses how important money actually is to older people. The research shows that older people see money as a means to an end – having choice and control over the ordinary things in their lives. The present generation of older people have less money than their children’s generations, and their capacity to set aside money ‘for a rainy day’ or for unseen projects is limited.

There are many barriers to achieving an ordinary life and a decent pension would solve some of these. But there are also additional costs that can be associated with old age (in terms of health and social support) and there is a need for a more systemic response to how that support is provided.

**“It pays dividends” Direct payments and older people**

*Heather Clark*

Following on from previous work, this report examines the experiences of older people receiving Direct Payments in three different areas. It documents how older people value Direct Payments and highlights many similarities with the experiences of younger adult disabled people. The report emphasises the importance of support schemes and outlines lessons for support schemes and for managers.

**“Let’s move on” Black and minority ethnic older people’s views on research findings**

*Jabeer Butt and Alex O’Neil*

This report is based on consultation and discussion with older people from black and minority ethnic communities in Leeds, Bristol and London. It shows how older people from different communities experience a shared sense of exclusion from mainstream communities and practical steps for researchers, policy makers and practitioners to involve older people in setting local or national agendas.
Older people doing it for
themselves  Accessing information,
advice and advocacy
Laurie Kerr and Vivien Kerr
This report is based on the Signpost project: an innovative scheme, devised and run by older people for the benefit of people who are older, both now and in the future. It recognises that what older people want now is not necessarily what they will want in the future and considers the role advancing technology will probably play. It also highlights older people’s lifetime of skills and experience which are still valuable in today’s society.

The report suggests that each generation of older people needs to have easy access to the right kind of information, advice and advocacy to enable them to be contributors to society rather than just consumers.

PRICE £11.95    ISBN 1 85935 153 0
JOSEPH ROWNTREE FOUNDATION

Older people’s perspectives  Designing information, advice and advocacy services
Ann Quinn, Angela Snowling and Pam Denicolo
This study reviews a project to explore the needs and problems of older people in relation to information, advice and advocacy. The researchers worked with a forum representing diverse communities of older people, and with service providers. They examined barriers older people face in getting information, advice and advocacy and what information services they want. The report also identifies older people’s key priorities and highlights the challenges faced by current services in attempting to give accurate and comprehensive information to older people. *Older people’s perspectives* considers the resource limitations on services and highlights possible solutions to some of the problems.

PRICE £11.95    ISBN 1 85935 107 7
JOSEPH ROWNTREE FOUNDATION

Are you listening?  Current practice in information, advice and advocacy services for older people
Pat Margiotta, Norma Raynes, Dimitri Pagidas, John Lawson and Bogusia Temple
Central to much government policy is the view that clear and timely information, advice and advocacy should be available for older people.

This study reports on a critical review of current practice in services designed to provide information, advice and advocacy for older people. The information is derived from a literature search, a search of the websites of local authority and major voluntary organisations, and three focus groups involving older people living in sheltered housing and elsewhere in the community. Examples of good practice are highlighted and some recommendations are made for future action.

PRICE £8.95    ISBN 1 85935 105 0
JOSEPH ROWNTREE FOUNDATION

"Getting old is not for cowards"  Literature on comfortable healthy ageing
Jan Reed, Glenda Cook, Susan Childs and Amanda Hall
This literature review considers different ideas about ageing. It explores how growing older is conceptualised, including polarised views that see old age either as inevitable decline with efforts made to identify ways of coping, or as an enemy to be fought, with submission to its effects viewed as defeat and failure. Reviewing an extensive and diverse range of literature, it suggests that a new concept of older age may be needed and highlights areas for further research and study.

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Alison Petch

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Karen Croucher, Nicholas Pleace and Mark Bevan

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Further reports from the Older People’s Programme are expected in 2004.

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In 2004 the Joseph Rowntree Foundation is celebrating its centenary year. In 1904 Joseph Rowntree transferred a substantial part of the wealth acquired from his York confectionary company into three trusts bearing his name, of which the Foundation is one. A Quaker as well as a successful businessman, he wanted his money to be used to tackle the root causes of social problems, rather than treating their symptoms.

A century later, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation remains faithful to its founder’s vision of social improvement through understanding the underlying causes of problems. By making its messages widely available and accessible it strives to influence policy and practice in ways that can achieve lasting change.

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