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# Care for the Elderly

Significant Innovations  
in three European Countries

European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

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If home-based care is to become a real alternative to residential care for substantial numbers of the frail elderly, then what is required is not a simple expansion of existing services but a thorough reform of personal social services. This is the lesson drawn from this study of social care innovations on the local level, conducted by an international team of experts in the Netherlands, Sweden, England and Wales. While there are important differences in the traditions of care and policy frameworks in these countries, what is remarkable is the emergence of a common agenda for the reform of care for the elderly. This agenda is characterized by

- a shift from standardized to tailor-made care arrangements,
- more supportive services for informal family carers,
- better coordination between services in a pluralist welfare system,
- greater investment in service planning and management.

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