

NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGOED until 9 am on Thursday 24 February 2011

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COUNSEL AND CARE WELCOMES BUPA REPORT ON THE CARE CRISIS

National charity Counsel and Care welcomes the messages highlighted in the report published today (Thursday 24 February 2011) by Bupa that the future of health and social care will be in crisis if there are not fundamental changes to the funding and provision of care.

Peter Watt, Chief Executive, Counsel and Care, said: "Many many users of our service tell us of the stress and fear that they experience when looking for a care-home. This report is a timely reminder that as the population ages the demand for more and better care will only increase.

It is the duty of the government to support the development of high quality and affordable care homes to prevent future bed blocking and an erosion of the level of care older people receive. Given the current financial climate it is urgent that the future plans for health and social care are outlined in ways that lead to efficient and smarter spending in future."

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The *Care Home Handbook* is available free of charge.
It can be downloaded from:
<http://www.counselandcare.org.uk/category/category-publications/pdf/care-home-handbook> or a hard copy can be requested.
To order a copy, telephone Counsel and Care's dedicated publication orderline on **020 7241 8522** or email your request with your name and full postal address to: sharon.ridsdale@counselandcare.org.uk.
2. Counsel and Care is a national charity working with older people, their families and carers to get the best care and support. Advice on issues affecting older people and carers can be obtained by calling 0845 300 7585 or emailing advice@counselandcare.org.uk
3. Counsel and Care's Advice Service opening hours are 10am-4pm Monday-Friday.
4. More information about Counsel and Care can be obtained from www.counselandcare.org.uk