

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Tuesday 4 January 2011

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**COUNSEL AND CARE WELCOMES THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
ANNOUNCEMENT ON EXTRA MONEY FOR HOSPITAL DISCHARGE**

National charity Counsel and Care welcomes the messages highlighted in the announcement made today (Tuesday 4 January 2011) by the Department of Health that an efficiency drive has created an additional £162 million for health and care services.

It is paramount that older people, their families and carers understand their rights and entitlements before, during and after any stay in hospital, and that they have access to high quality advice and information on how to stay independent and healthy at home. The recent launch of Counsel and Care's guides **Hospital care in England: what you need to know before, during and after your stay** and **Telecare and Telehealth** underlines the importance of patients' rights, their needs at home, and how to get the best possible outcomes from a stay in hospital.

Elizabeth Lodge, Advice Service Manager, Counsel and Care said: "We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health is investing in helping older people to receive the best possible care after a stay in hospital. It is without a doubt in the best interests of all if older people are given the assistance they need to maintain their independence and health outside the hospital setting. This will certainly be facilitated by prompt and appropriate hospital discharges,

with the right services in place to aid recovery at home. Our advice and information service can help older people make the necessary decisions about the options available to them upon leaving hospital and in the longer term.”

Caroline Bernard, Acting Chief Executive, Counsel and Care, said: “This initiative highlights the importance of health and social care working closer together to ensure that older people, who are after all the biggest users of the NHS, are able to have a smooth transition from hospital to home.

“Efficiency savings such as these chime with our call for ‘smarter spending’, with its focus on prevention and on improving the front line services that are under threat this year.

“We see this funding as crucial to the delivery of the government’s vision for social care, and as a key part of the drive towards a fairer, more sustainable care system for older people, their families and carers”.

#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

- Copies of **Hospital care in England: what you need to know before, during and after your stay** can be downloaded from:

<http://www.counselandcare.org.uk/category/advice/pdf/hospital-care-in-england>

- Copies of **Telecare and telehealth: what it is and how to get it** can be downloaded from:

<http://www.counselandcare.org.uk/category/advice/pdf/telecare-and-telehealth-what-it-is-and-how-to-get-it-guide-6>

- The full list of the Counsel and Care guides available to download from: <http://www.counselandcare.org.uk/advice-and-information>
- 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](mailto:advice@counselandcare.org.uk). Counsel and Care's Advice Service opening hours are 10am-4pm Monday-Friday
- More information about Counsel and Care can be obtained from [www.counselandcare.org.uk](http://www.counselandcare.org.uk)