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## **Community Care and Inter-Generational Relationships: the British Experience**

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**Aim.** To examine the impact of policies of “community care” for the elderly on relations between the generations.

**Method.** This study draws on a variety of British government reports and statistics, as well as academic social science research.

**Results.** Notions of “community” are changing. Geographic mobility, changing employment practices, and diversity of life-styles imply that many elderly cannot obtain support within local communities. Instead they depend on family caregivers, on private paid care, statutory services, volunteers or a combination of these. The pattern of services depends on the individual elder’s economic resources. With money, they are able, as customers, to purchase help for themselves. Without sufficient resources, the needs of the elderly must be assessed by an outsider and met, if at all, by a variety of people over whom they have little control.

**Conclusion.** The implementation of community care policies provides grounds for a conflict both between the generations and between different categories of caregivers.

**Key words:** *aged; community health care; Great Britain*

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