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The Future Need for Care Workers – a UK perspective

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Structure of the presentation:

- 1. Older people receiving care services**
- 2. Case Studies of Migrant Carer Workplaces**
- 3. Individual Preferences for Care**





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1. Older people receiving care services

During 2005-6 in England:

- **Approx. 400,000 care home residents aged 65+**
- **48% of residential home and 60% of nursing home residents are aged over 85**
- **From 1997 to 2006, no. of hours of home care (local authority provision or arranged) rose from 2.4 million to 3.6 million per week**
- **From 1997 to 2006, no. of households receiving home care fell from 514,000 to 355,000**

Laing & Buisson 2006; Department of Health 2006





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1. Older people receiving care services

- Older people privately purchase over 100,000 residential and nursing home places
- Older people spend more than £450 million per year purchasing their own home care services
- Older people contribute £15 billion of unpaid care (excl. childcare) per year

Laing & Buisson 2006; Age Concern 2004



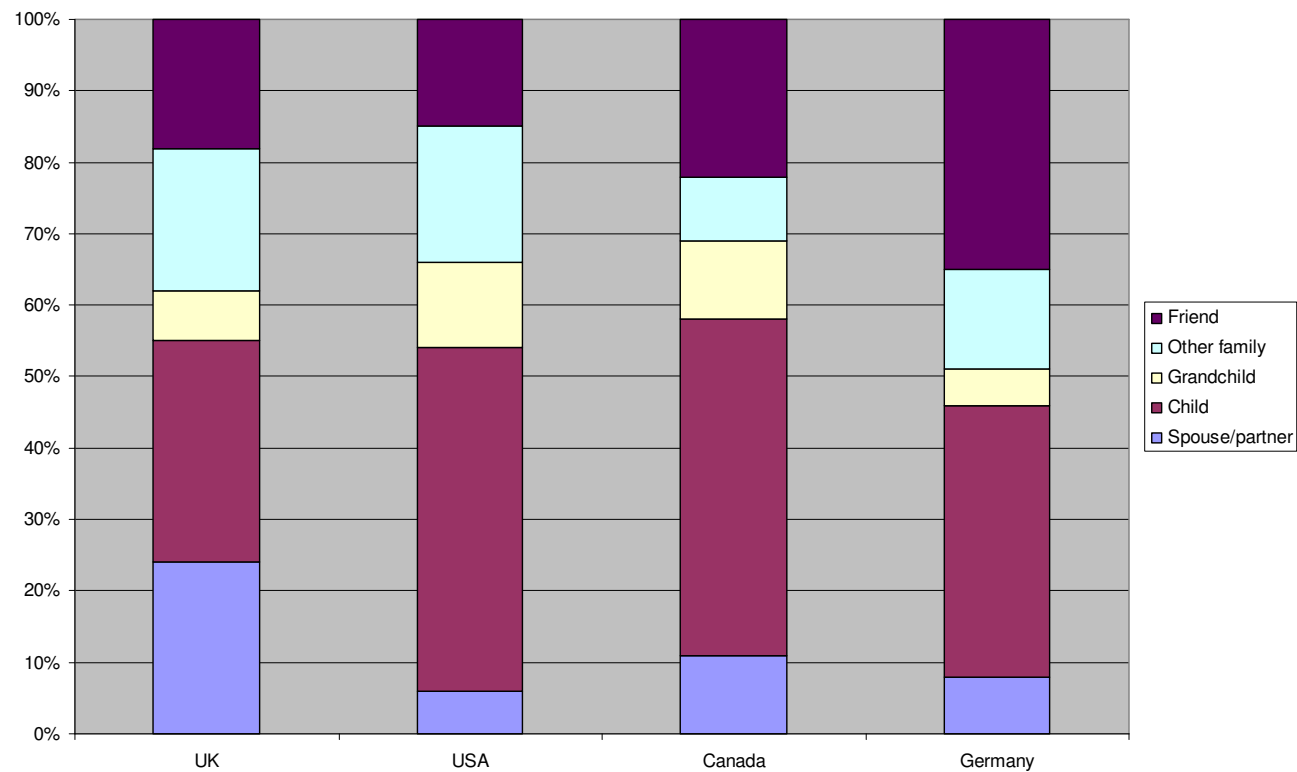


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1. Older people receiving care services

Leeson & Harper 2007

Network of people providing practical help to 60-79 year olds





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2. Case Studies of Migrant Carer Workplaces

1. The Southern Cross Healthcare Group – Brookfield Christian Care Home

- third largest independent provider of care homes for older people in the UK with over 150 centres
 - home has 66 single rooms
 - of the 67 staff, approximately 70 per cent are foreign workers, mainly from Zimbabwe but also from Kenya, Nigeria and the West Indies; Only 2 of the residents are from ethnic minority groups
 - most are in the country for up to 5 years to earn money before returning home

Leeson & Harper 2006



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2. Case Studies of Migrant Carer Workplaces

1. The Southern Cross Healthcare Group – Brookfield Christian Care Home

- 11 of 15 nursing staff, mainly aged 25-35 years of age, all female. Some have their families with them, others expect their families to join them later. A number have come to the area (with qualifications or adaptations from elsewhere) to join family members already resident in the area
- 32 of 40 care assistants. Have been resident in the UK for some time. Move to the area because of family ties and because jobs in the care sector are readily and easily available. Not entering the UK to take on these jobs – it is simply a question of these being the types of jobs available





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2. Case Studies of Migrant Carer Workplaces

2. Abacus Care

- Abacus Care is one of the largest providers of private nursing and care services in the country, established in 1991
- Abacus Care has 22 regional centres of operation and provides staffing solutions to hospitals, nursing homes, social services and local authorities as well as clients in their own homes
- Abacus Care (Oxford and South West England) there are currently 250 staff engaged. Most are female and two thirds are foreign workers – the majority working as care assistants





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2. Case Studies of Migrant Carer Workplaces

2. Abacus Care

- no recruitment campaign directed at recruiting foreign workers – the large number and proportion of foreign workers in the sector is because: there is a chronic shortage of staff, and the sector is regarded as a low-status sector by native workers
- a large number of foreign workers enter on student visas (allows them to work up to 20 hours per week). Many of these student-workers are Chinese; many are qualified nurses in their own country





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3. Individual Preferences for Care

- Little research on preferences in respect of migrant carers
- In focus group work in the UK with people in their 50s, Levenson, Jeyashingham & Joule (2005) report no mention of migrant carers as an alternative or part of changing expectations to care provision





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3. Individual Preferences for Care - Italy

“If an elderly member of your family needed continuous care, would you engage a migrant worker?”

Yes, I already do	10%
Yes, I would	40%
Only in absence of other alternatives	13%
No, not at all	25%
Don't know	12%

Socci et al 2003





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3. Individual Preferences for Care - Italy

“Why do/would you engage a migrant worker?”

It could be useful	35%
Few Italians will do the work	14%
Economically convenient	5%

Socci et al 2003



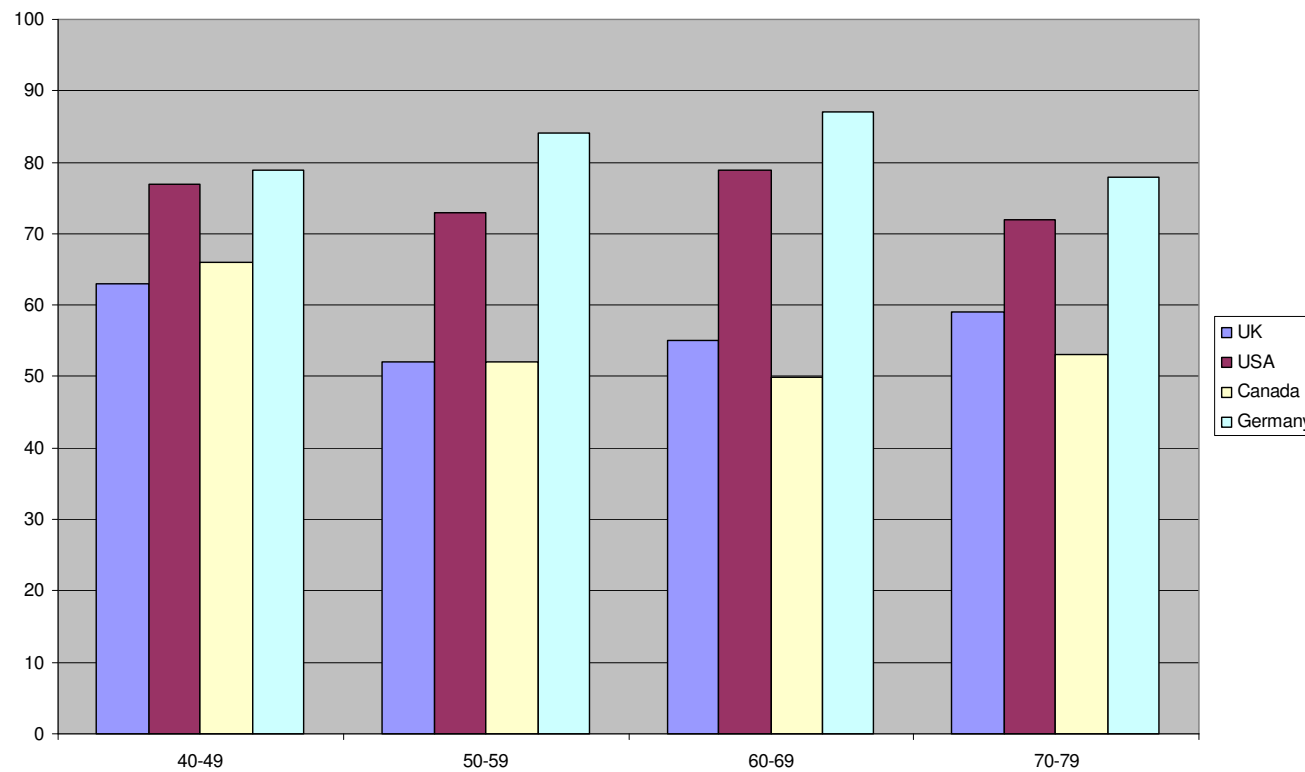


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3. Individual Preferences for Care

Leeson & Harper 2007

Proportion feeling individual/family should provide practical help in the home for older persons in need





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3. Individual Preferences for Care

Leeson & Harper 2007

Proportions feeling individual/family should provide personal care for older people in need

