



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



AUDIO CASE STUDIES

A guide

INTRODUCTION

The audio case studies draw on research findings from the Ethical Issues in Self-funded Social Care: Co-producing knowledge with older people project. Conducted over 3 years and funded by the Wellcome Trust, this participatory research project explored how older people experience the process of finding and paying for personal care from their own resources in three local authority areas in England. For the full research report and further information about the project please visit <http://www.olderpeopleselffundingcare.com/>

The scripts for the audios were developed from interview transcripts with either an older person or carer participant in our study. In most cases, the participants took part in three interviews over an eighteen-month period. The audios are, necessarily, highly selective in the information they present. We have tried to highlight some key issues about self-funding and to stay as close as possible to the tone and style of how the participant presented their experiences. Some of the words are narrated as spoken by the participant but, more often, the interview content has been paraphrased. All names are fictitious and details that could identify the person have been changed or removed.

The scripts were written by Nick Le Mesurier, Research Fellow on the project. The audios are narrated by members of our co-research teams, as credited below.

BACKGROUND TO EACH AUDIO CASE STUDY

Annie (narrated by Trish Kelly)

Annie, aged 80, has advanced dementia and very limited mobility. She lives in alone in her own home and receives four care calls a day plus a night-sitter. She died shortly after the third interview. Her interview was given by her daughter, Marilyn, acting as consultee. The audio is based on our interviews with Marilyn.

Elaine (narrated by Sue Bennett)

Elaine, aged 96, lives alone. During the course of the study, she reduced the amount of care she purchased mainly in response to changes in the care agency's arrangements rather than changes in her own needs.

Florence (narrated by Alison Meakin)

Florence, aged 92, lives alone. She has carers three times a day for help with personal care and meal preparation. She had changed the agency providing her care and had mixed experiences of care. She adjusted the amount of care she purchased because of anxiety about the costs.

Gryff (narrated by Nick Le Mesurier)

Gryff, aged 60, is the main carer for his father who has dementia. He runs his own business from an office in his father's home. His father spent several weeks in a care home following discharge from hospital and then had daily care in his own home, arranged by Gryff. This audio is based on one interview with Gryff in his role as carer.

Kitty – (narrated by Carol Rickwood)

Kitty, aged 84, lives alone. She is severely disabled and unable to access the kitchen in the house she has lived in for many years. She has no family support and receives paid care from several different sources. Social Services had paid for some of her care in the past but this ceased after her finances were reassessed.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION



Care and self-funding:

- What do you find troubling about the experiences of self-funded care described in this case study?
- What aspects of self-funded care work well?
- Looking forward, what might improve this person's experiences of self-funded care?



Broader issues you may want to consider:

- What seem to be the most important factors for this person's sense of wellbeing?
- What could be done to promote their wellbeing, aside from the issues related to self-funded care?

LINKS TO OUR BRIEFINGS

Some of the issues raised in the case study are discussed in our briefings:

Six Myths about paying for care

<http://www.olderpeopleselffundingcare.com/publications/briefing-3-six-myths/>

Impact of self-funding on unpaid carers

<http://www.olderpeopleselffundingcare.com/publications/impact-of-self-funding-on-unpaid-carers/>

Self-funders: the invisible lynchpin of the social care system

<http://www.olderpeopleselffundingcare.com/publications/briefing-1-self-funders-as-lynchpin/>



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