

## **The Dynamics of Social Care in the UK**

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The rise in the proportion of the population aged 65 and over, as well as the ageing of the older population itself, place greater pressures on health and social service provision and informal support networks. Although the number of older people receiving home care services is well documented from administrative data, less is known about the characteristics of service beneficiaries, and what is known is based on cross-sectional data. This paper uses data from the British Household Panel Study to investigate the factors associated with making the transition into receipt of social care and predictors associated with continued receipt of care. *Starting* to receive social care services is associated with a change in individual's characteristics (eg their health), a change in their living arrangements (eg death of a spouse), or a change in their spouse's characteristics. Similarly, *cessation* of formal care receipt is related to a number of factors including change in the availability of informal care or entry into institutional care. Such associations cannot be captured using cross-sectional data. Understanding the dynamics of social care will place us in a better position to plan for the care needs of older people today but also in the future.