

30 January 2008

## **National charity representing care home residents and their relatives expresses grave concern at the number of care homes still failing to reach minimum standards**

The Relatives & Residents Association is concerned that 4 years after a new system of registration and inspection was introduced to improve standards of care in care homes for older people, hundreds of homes are still failing to meet minimum standards. An annual report, *The state of social care in England 2006–07*, published yesterday by the regulator, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), shows that 40% of residential homes and 42% of nursing homes for older people fail to meet the national minimum standard relating to the management and administration of medicines. Just as worrying is the news that 44% of residential homes and 45% of nursing homes fail to meet the standard for care plans. Performance against other equally important standards – such as safe working practices, record keeping and staff supervision – also demonstrates enormous room for improvement.

While welcoming the report's detailed picture of social care today, Gillian Dalley, Chief Executive of the R&RA says: 'The new system was meant to eliminate bad practice from care homes altogether. The report, however, shows that many of the old failings persist. We are concerned that CSCI has not come down hard enough on the poor providers that remain in the system. We do not think that reducing the number of inspections that homes are subject to – which is part of the new approach adopted by CSCI during the past year – helps efforts to make things better. We want greater scrutiny and more enforcement of requirements to improve when bad practice is identified. It is unfair that good care providers are stigmatised by the continuing presence of poor providers in the sector.'

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### **Notes to editors**

1. The R&RA is the national charity (reg. no. 1020194) that supports older people in care and their relatives, and campaigns for improved standards and better quality of life for all care home residents. Advice line: 020 7359 8136
2. *The state of social care in England 2006–07* is published by the Commission for Social Care Inspection, [www.csci.org.uk](http://www.csci.org.uk)
3. For further comment and information, contact Gillian Dalley, R&RA Chief Executive, or Alison Clarke on 020 7359 8148