

Options for social care

The current system has been uneasily defended by the main parties in recent years, with growing criticisms. This system seeks to define a distinction between normal living costs, and care costs. An elderly person, whether living in their own home or in a care home, gets some state financial support with care costs but is expected to make their own provision for accommodation and daily living and to pay for other social care provision. All healthcare is free for all.

This means when someone moves from their own home into a care home for the rest of their lives a decision has to be made about the use of the home they are vacating which will have implications for any means tested benefits and support. Clearly the elderly person no longer needs the home they leave, and that home should be used. The most likely outcome is sale to a new owner occupier, releasing capital. This capital is then used to pay for the day to day living costs at the care home. Alternatively, if the property has a high rental value, the elderly person could rent it out and use the rental income along with any other income to pay the care home fees.

There have been many critics who say this is unfair on grown up children hoping to inherit. If their parents live in their own home until death they will inherit a valuable property. If the last surviving parent moves into a care home they may inherit very little. To address this different outcome the Conservative Manifesto says why not increase the amount of capital someone in a care home can keep to 100,000 pounds from the current 23000 pounds, but also have the same rule for people continuing in their own home.

Judging this needs detail over how the distinction between healthcare, free to all, and other care which you will be billed for, would work out. The proposal allows an elderly person living in their own home to defer any payment, making it a charge on the estate.

The different outcomes that will still arise come from the high costs of care home provision. The basic accommodation and meal costs will tend to be much higher than living alone in your own home. Many more staff are involved and we want them to be decently paid. The owner also needs to cover the cost of capital to provide the property.

A lot of the grown up children, many of them pensioners themselves, have their own homes and savings by the time their last parent dies. The debate is whether they should pay more tax to help pay more of the costs of living of their parent's generation through the state, or whether they should accept as possible heirs that their own parent has to spend more of the money they have accumulated during their lives to pay the bills of their old age. One way or another the children have to help finance the very elderly. The truth is the state has no money, only the money it takes off us one way or another.

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Two detained for hunting wild monkey

Two men who allegedly hunted a wild rhesus monkey have been detained, police in north China's Shanxi Province said Sunday.

Police with the public security bureau of Yuncheng City were informed earlier this month that a car carrying a caged monkey was seized on an expressway in Yuanqu County.

Investigation showed that the two suspects, from Henan Province, drove to Shanxi Lishan national nature reserve. They hit a rhesus monkey with a tranquilizer dart and locked it in an iron cage.

They were intercepted by highway security staff on their way back to Henan.

Rhesus monkeys are a second-class nationally protected animal. The Lishan reserve has hundreds of rhesus monkeys living there.

The two men were detained for illegal hunting and transporting a precious and endangered wild animal.

Siberian tiger footprints found in NE China

A set of clear and well-preserved footprints suspected to have been left by a wild Siberian tiger were discovered in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, local forestry authorities said Sunday.

The footprints were found by workers on a tree farm in Raohe County on Friday. Experts said such clear and complete footprints were rare, and they likely belong to a young male tiger.

Zhang Minghai of the Northeast Forestry University said the tiger was probably walking toward the Wusuli River on the China-Russia border.

Siberian tigers are one of the world's most endangered species. They predominantly live in northeast China and eastern Russia.

Heilongjiang has reported frequent activity by wild Siberian tigers in recent years. Footprints of another tiger were found in March in Raohe County.

Local authorities said the province has witnessed a rise both in the

population of wild tigers and their prey.

Youth organization to help more singles tie the knot



A blind dating activity is held in a shopping mall. [File Photo]

Youth organizations including the Communist Youth League have vowed to help young people find love as the Chinese government puts the marriage issue on its agenda.

“Marriage is a big issue in the development of youth,” He Junke, a senior official with CYL Central Committee, said on Wednesday.

More young people are marrying at a later age due to changes in life and work patterns, he said, and youth organizations including the CYL will work to solve the issue.

The announcement came after the Central Committee of the CPC and the State Council jointly issued the Medium and Long-term Youth Development Plan (2016-25) last month, listing marriage as one of the top 10 youth issues.

The plan calls for more dating activities to be organized for young people, with priority given to older singles, and approaches taken to regulate the dating and matchmaking services market.

Chinese governments once advocated later marriages in order to control population growth. But the tide has turned.

In 2015, the country abolished the three-decades-old one-child policy and delaying marriage is no longer encouraged.

And more people are marrying at a later age. A report by the All-China Woman's Federation in 2015 showed that the marriage age for Chinese was 26 on average, which is older in developed areas.

According to data published by the Shanghai statistics bureau, the average age of marriage for Shanghai women was 26.5 in 2010. That had risen to 28.2 in 2013.

In 2015, the number of single people in China reached nearly 200 million. The proportion of the population made up by unmarried people more than doubled from 6 percent in 1990 to 14.6 percent in 2013.

He Junke said that the CYL Central Committee will work to cultivate a good environment for youth to find their loved ones, but the matter was essentially a private one, so singles should concentrate on making their own efforts.

As a bond linking the nation's youth with the Party, the CYL included about 88 million members and more than 3.87 million organizations across the country by the end of 2015. Its Central Committee exercises leadership covering the work of the CYL.

[Wu Den-yih elected Kuomintang leader](#)



Wu Den-yih was elected Kuomintang's chairperson on Saturday. [File Photo]

Wu Den-yih was elected Kuomintang's chairperson on Saturday by garnering more than 52 percent of all valid votes, the KMT announced.

The polls opened at 8 a.m. and closed at 4 p.m Saturday. Over 58 percent of the KMT members with voting right cast their votes.

Wu Den-yih secured the lion's share of 144,408 votes, or 52.24 percent, to beat the other five candidates – the incumbent KMT chairwoman Hung Hsiu-chu, vice chairman Hau Lung-bin, former legislator Han Kuo-yu, former KMT vice chairman Steve Chan, as well as former legislator Pan Wei-kang, who garnered 53,063, 44,301, 16,141, 12,332 and 2,437 votes, respectively.

As per the party charter, a candidate wins the election with more than half the votes; otherwise, the top two candidates contest a second round.