

Smart House Technology

Independent Living for an
Ageing Population

Bridget Sutherland

Introduction and Background

- Growth of IT technology
- Definition of 'Smart House Technology
- Independent living potential for an ageing population

Personal Safety Monitoring Systems

- Older persons' houses
- Personal alarms

Telemedicine & Telecare

- Definition of Telemedicine
- Online health in geriatric care
- Use of video conferencing
- 'Store-forward' techniques
- Remote monitoring

Telecare Projects in the UK

- Visits to acute care projects
- Aims of the projects
- Role of local borough councils

The Future: Some issues relating to Telemedicine & Telecare

- Need for technical and clinical standards, privacy policies and framework
- Who owns the health information – the patient or the care provider?
- Standard of care
- Telemedicine and 'informed consent'
- Has telemedicine potential to attract a modified standard of care?

The Future – Need for Collaboration

- Federal, State and Local Governments
- Academic researchers
- Architects, builders and technicians
- Manufacturers and suppliers
- Consumers – including IT education
- Health care providers

The Future: Funding Technology

- Rising health care costs
- Labor Party's Ageing Policy Discussion Paper
- Suggestion of *Assistive Technology Benefits Scheme*
- UK Government's telecare strategy
- Ensuring technology available for everyone

Challenges for Older People - 1

- *Older people need to be educated to understand and be aware of what they need in terms of their future environment, such as adaptability, accessibility and smart house technology for provision of security, telemedicine and telecare*

- *Bridget Sutherland,*
- *National Speakers Series Report 2006*

Challenges for Older People - 2

- We are not a separate race.
- We may suffer from minor frailties and impairments, but this does not necessarily make us disabled or different.
- The challenge is to improve our environment to enable us to live independent and fulfilling lives for as long as possible.