

# Japan Study Tour 2015: Ageing and demographic change:

A view from a participant

Richard Elphick, Strategic  
Commissioner, Camden Council

# CLAIR trip to Yamanashi November 2015

- Opportunity for public sector staff through JLGC, which is an office of CLAIR
- Theme of ageing and demographic change
- Hosted by Yamanashi Prefecture







# Structure

1. General observations – about Japan and UK's population and public sector
2. Approach - how we're each tackling an ageing population
3. Questions that remain with me

# General observations



# Comparison

- Both ageing and ageing is unevenly distributed, but Japan faster and more unevenly
- UK has an unprecedented austerity agenda
- UK has more diversity and immigration
- Japan has a lower birth rate
- Japan has startlingly better public health
- Similar scale of public sector challenge?

# Approach





# How government talks about age

## Japan

### Tone

- Respectful
- Expectation
- Open

### Approach

- Long term insurance and part payments
- Locally led

## UK

### Tone

- Burden / responsibility
- Voting force, hence quiet?
- Efficiency

### Approach

- Protect pensions
- Care in own home
- Bureaucratic

# Case study – Minami Alps Volunteers



# Features of public sector provision

## Japan

Long term approach – 30 year strategies

Multiple tiers – localised providers

State and Market led provision

Art and design represented in services

Concern about people not accessing support

## UK

Shorter term, focus on innovation, reorganisation

Rationalised tiers of government

Commissioned

Role for voluntary sector

Focus on science, efficiency

Concern about eligibility and overuse of healthcare





# Comparison of adult social care

- Prevention and wellbeing – adult education, telecare, early help
- Models of care – personalised community care vs insurance based model, dementia vs long term conditions
- Quality assurance
- End of life care



# The future

## Japan

- New models to support people with dementia in the home?
- Different housing models – clusters?
- Quality assurance of provision?
- More use of technology?
- How to address the workforce question?

## UK

- How to build on skills of the community to promote wellbeing and self management?
- Mature conversation about funding?
- Focus more on quality and experience, rather than safety?
- Increasing expectation of individuals?



