

GOLTC: CHANGING THE NARRATIVE ON LONG-TERM CARE, NOVEMBER 28TH 2025

The care dividend

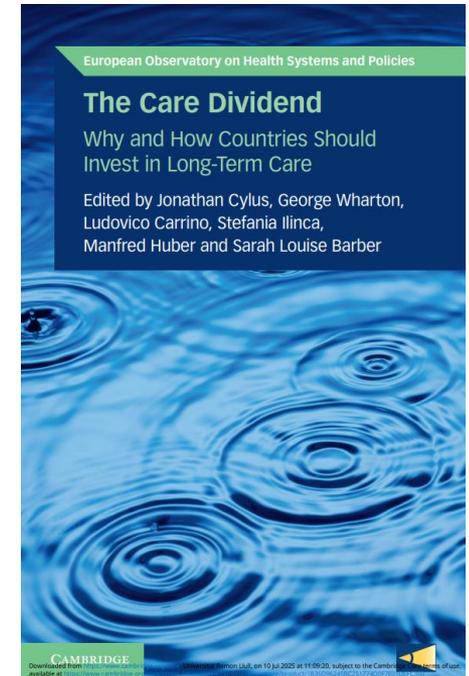
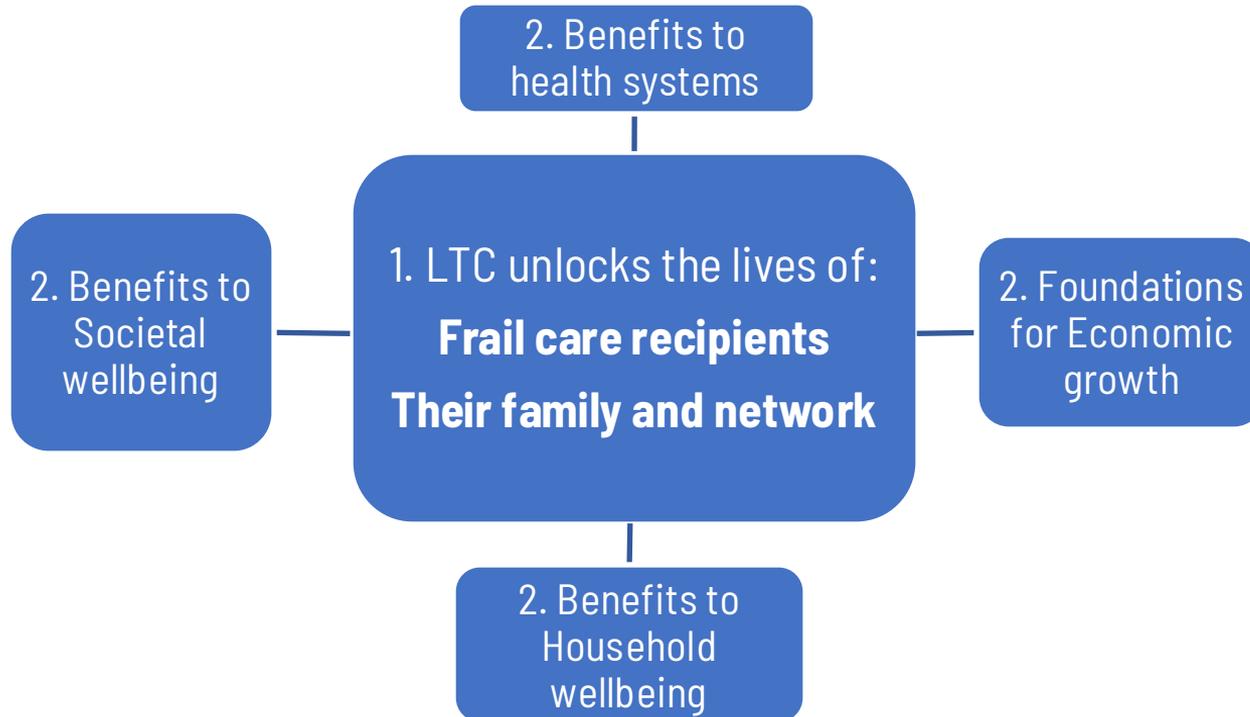


Ludovico Carrino

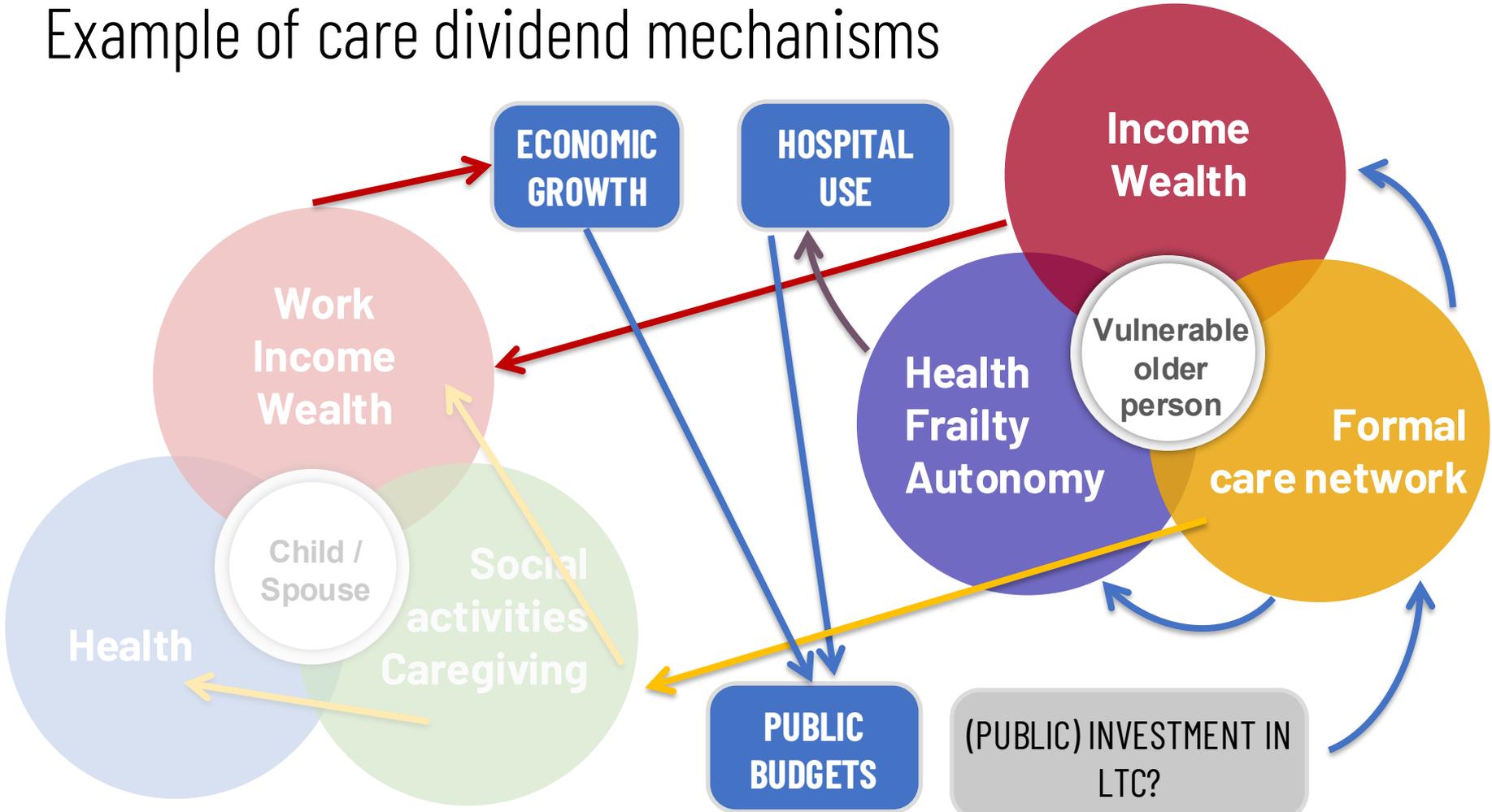
LTC and Ageing

- Long-term Care (LTC, also “Social Care”)
 - Support for people with needs due to some functional or cognitive decline
- Many ageing countries face high debt, shrinking workforce and low growth.
 - Ageing societies destined to stagnate? Low employment forever?
 - Hence, hard to conceive increasing welfare spending?
- Economic theory and evidence for ageing societies:
 - Growth is slowed because of health, human capital and social capitals, not age.
- Lives are intertwined: need-of-care is a social cost
- **Take-home message: the effect of LTC goes well beyond helping older people with disabilities.**
 - **Economics helps understand how and when this happens**

The Care Dividend: investing in public LTC boosts a country's economic and social value: a two-tier approach

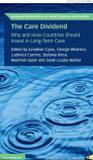


Example of care dividend mechanisms



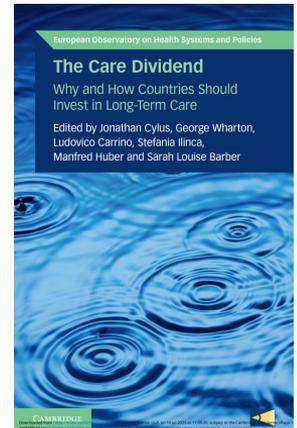
(Public) LTC unlocks economics/societal benefits

- **Better lives for care users.** Public LTC improves health, reduces unmet needs, expands choice and lowers poverty among older adults.
- **Lower hospital use:** less (unnecessary) admissions, more efficient health care spending.
- **Through families, spillover effects** on wellbeing and growth
 - Carers' health, employment opportunities, productivity and earnings
 - Virtuous female participation in jobs can be key of resilient economies
 - Boost to firms' productivity
- **Through markets, spillover effects on wellbeing and growth**
 - Job creation and innovations in health-care and ageing-related sectors



Conclusion: LTC as strategic infrastructure

- LTC investment helps also those who have nothing to do with LTC.
- Social recognition. Care is a societal cost; without formal support, carers (especially women) risk permanently leaving the workforce.
- Economic literature increasingly shows that welfare spending can deliver economic benefits, not just costs, and can boost growth and wellbeing
 - It's costly, but the cost of not investing is higher. Needs sound and solid economics research.





UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI TRIESTE

KING'S
College
LONDON

Ludovico Carrino

Associate Professor, University of Trieste

Visiting Senior Lecturer, Department of Global Health & Social Medicine, King's College London

<https://deams.units.it/it/dipartimento/persona/personale-docente?q=it/node/20200>

ludovico.carrino@units.it