

Annotation

This bachelor thesis elaborates on the issue of ageing informal caregivers who care for the mentally handicapped. An informal caregiver provides care that is not at a professional level and is unpaid. Nevertheless, it is informal carers who are the primary providers of long-term or lifelong care for the mentally or physically handicapped. This care is most often provided by a person from the family, a partner or close family relatives. The thesis describes how the provision of this care to a mentally handicapped individual affects the life of an ageing informal caregiver. These are negative effects on the social and family relations, psyche and health of the caregiver, the financial security of the whole family and especially the security and safety of their mentally handicapped child in the future in all the needs. One of the purposes of the thesis is to identify primary needs and determine the current position of ageing informal carers in the context of social policy. Informal older carers face different and more diverse barriers than younger carers. They are a neglected and forgotten group, among other things due to the unanchored status of an informal caregiver in the Social Services Act. The work is based on qualitative research and with the help of interviews with carers and experts, it was found out whether the needs of informal carers are sufficiently covered by current social policy instruments in the Czech Republic. The work looks at this issue in terms of the theory of social exclusion and the concept of the continuum of care. Key identified needs to support ageing informal carers include counselling on the current and future provision of care for a mentally handicapped child, help in the carer's home and coordination of social and health services.