



# A manifesto for the future

## **Care England, championing care providers, calls for the short-term viability of the adult social care sector to be secured through an immediate £4 billion, followed by a longer-term plan to ensure the future sustainability of the sector.**

Social care is vital for the future of local people and local economies. It supports some of society's most vulnerable, who often live with lifelong conditions and it employs millions throughout England. In addition, social care is increasingly at the forefront of the electorate's minds and must be seen as part of national infrastructure.

Social care has been ignored by successive governments, however, action is now required as a result of long-term demographic change. Thus, a definitive solution is needed to ensure the future sustainability and growth of not only the sector itself, but England as a whole.

There is no need for further consultation, review or Green Papers; the moment has passed. The sector is brimming with innovation, energy and commitment. Unlike other sectors, social care has not received the funding necessary to meet the rapidly rising levels of demand that it has and will continue to see.

The social care sector requires fair funding, proportionate regulation and due recognition. Quality social care cannot be delivered on a shoestring. Without a long-term commitment from Government for a well-trained, well-resourced and fairly funded social care sector the NHS has, and will become, increasingly burdened. For example, delayed discharge rates as a result of adult social care have almost doubled since 2010 - further pressurising the NHS.

Moreover, the needs of England's diverse and pluralist society will be best met by a social care landscape which also reflects such characteristics. A mixed economy is, and will continue to be, the best means of ensuring that quality care is both maintained and increased.

Expectations from citizens have risen, they experience social and health care as a continuum but the way that health and social care are configured means that there are anomalies and glitches in the system making the patient's journey anything but joined up. Social care is unknown and misunderstood. The government must change this and lead the agenda by delivering a long-term funding settlement and a public information campaign about social care.

The Chancellor's latest pledge of £1.5 billion<sup>1</sup>, whilst welcome, is simply inadequate and represents at the very most a short-term cessation of the sector's deteriorating financial position. Investment in the sector is key and will only be achieved with a clear long-term care strategy which is properly funded.

**Care England is the largest representative body for independent providers of adult social care, across older people, people with learning or physical disabilities and mental health.**

# Championing Care Providers

- **The value of high quality independent care services needs to be understood by all politicians, not just service users and their families.**
- **Care services need to be properly funded. State funding needs to be at a sustainable level that meets the real costs of providing high quality care.**
- **Providers should be respected, treated fairly and have a voice in the strategic direction of social and health care services.**
- **People need to have choice and the flexibility to select the care that best suits their requirements.**
- **Independent care sector (ICS) staff are front line staff and should have appropriate training, fair pay and career structures in place that mirror their colleagues in the NHS. Care staff should be seen as key workers.**
- **The contribution of the adult social care sector to the United Kingdom's economy, communities and society should be more widely appreciated.**
- **If care providers create savings in the wellbeing continuum (e.g by better care making savings for the NHS), then there should be a system whereby they are rewarded for it. Moreover, a fund should be set up specifically to encourage innovation and adoption of technology in the care sector.**
- **Government to put mechanisms in place to ensure that commissioners and providers work better to increase capacity, especially for people in ATUs to enable them to be discharged into community settings more promptly.**

# Sustainable social care for adults

**Supports** people in their own homes and local communities, close to families, friends and neighbourhood resources.

**Relieves** pressure on finite NHS and emergency acute services through prevention, wellbeing and avoiding unnecessary emergency admissions.

**Enables** quality service provision so people can live with comfort, dignity and choice.

## We ask for

- Continued and increased investment in front line social care services by the Government to ensure a sustainable system fit for the 21st century giving taxpayers value for money and those in need of care, the best quality as near to home as possible.
- Strong central leadership to take duplication and unnecessary administrative burdens out of the system.
- Joined up commissioning, focusing on outcomes for the individual, being better enabled by more oversight being placed upon commissioning processes.
- A Commissioner for Older People defending the rights of a much maligned and overlooked cohort of society who need to be seen as a resource not a burden.
- Ensure adults with learning disabilities are valued and their needs properly met by health and social care services.
- Investment in the training and upskilling of care staff, including independent sector nurses.
- Easier recruitment of staff from overseas.
- The creation of one cross-sector training and support body; Skills for Delivery.
- Better use of care homes with all tiers of the NHS working with and for the same outcome.
- Zero rated VAT for all independent care services.
- Care England is at forefront of the tech revolution doing what it does best: bringing the people with the innovative tech ideas together with the people who want to support and care for vulnerable people in our community. We want better technology for the sector and access to high quality data and intelligence.
- Incentives need to be instituted in the legislative frameworks and in the budgeting process so that care providers are enabled to provide better tech-enabled care, which can benefit the quality of life of people and their own efficiency and capacity.

# Putting you in control: Questions to ask of your local politicians

Care England encourages its members to invite their Prospective Parliamentary Candidates to visit them and meet both their staff and residents. The coming election period provides the opportunity for the electorate to do just that and they should be asking politicians the following questions:

- 1. Which independent sector services have you visited in the area and what are your thoughts on the future direction of social care?**
- 2. How will you and your party ensure that there is an adequate supply of skilled social care staff?**
- 3. How will you ensure that there is a sustainable funding settlement for adult social care in the next Parliament?**
- 4. What decisions will you take, or policies will you push for, to ensure that NHS and council commissioners work together and properly fund the care of people living in residential care?**

# The facts:

- Demand for social care is rising: it is predicted to increase 44% by 2030. NHS Digital estimate that demand for adult social care services has increased by 1.6% since 2015-16. At the same time, growth in government spending has only seen a 0.4% increase in real terms.<sup>2</sup>
- There is a clear link between older patients' hospital stay duration and the supply of home care and long-term residential care in their area. For residential care, a 10 per cent increase in supply per capita would equate to approximately 19,000 fewer inpatient bed days per annum, the equivalent of 53 inpatient beds daily.<sup>3</sup>
- A 2019 report by the Alzheimer's Society found that English businesses lost £3.2 billion last year to dementia care crisis.
- The independent social care sector employs around 1.5 million people in England, making the adult social care workforce of equal size to the NHS.
- Hft's 2018 Sector Pulse Check found that 68% of those surveyed envisage having to close some parts of their organisations in the near future.
- Whilst Age UK calculated in 2018 that *"delayed discharges from hospital due to social care not being in place costs the NHS £289,140,954 a year equivalent to £550 per minute."*
- While demographic pressures are increasing costs by 3 per cent per year, the number of people actually receiving services has not increased, suggesting growing unmet need. England now spends less than 1 per cent of its GDP on social care.
- Care England research has found that many councils pay independent social care providers less £500 for residential care per week per resident. This is despite Laing Buisson's Fair Cost of Care toolkit which showed that residential care homes for older people in England needed to charge fees of between £623 and £726 per week.
- Four fifths of Directors of Adult Social Care think care providers in their area are already facing financial difficulties, 77 councils report that at least one care home provider has ceased trading in their area in the past six months, and 28% of care homes are thought to be at risk of financial failure. As at 2016/17 the adult social care sector was estimated to contribute £41.8 billion per annum to the English economy.<sup>4</sup>
- Social care is the largest area of public spending at a local level (councils spend around £14bn per year) and the sector contributes approximately £43billion to the national economy.

# Notes:

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1. Comprehensive Spending Review 4.9.2019: an additional £1 billion for adult and children's social care. In addition, the government will consult on a 2% Adult Social Care precept that will enable councils to access a further £0.5 billion. This funding will support local authorities to meet rising demand and continue to stabilise the social care system. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spending-round-2019-document/spending-round-2019>
  2. NHS Digital estimate that demand for adult social care services has increased by 1.6% since 2015-16. At the same time, growth in government spending has only seen a 0.4% increase in real terms. (The Health Foundation, 2018). <https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/news/demand-for-adult-social-care-services-has-increased-by-16-since-2015-16>
  3. Economic and Social Research Institute
  4. Skills for Care, 2017 <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Documents/NMDS-SC-and-intelligence/NMDS-SC/Analysis-pages/State-of-17/State-of-the-adult-social-care-sector-and-workforce-2017.pdf>



# Championing Care Providers

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