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People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform White Paper

Overarching

What is the reform white paper planning to achieve?

- We are committed to reforming health and social care.
- The white paper sets out an ambitious 10 year vision for reform which puts people at the centre of social care.
- We outline our immediate priorities for investment in people, technology and finding innovative ways of delivering care and support. Specific measures announced today include:
 - New investment of at least £300 million to support local authorities to integrate housing into local health and care strategies, with a focus on increasing the availability of supported housing options. This will provide greater choice of housing and support options for people;
 - at least £150 million to drive greater adoption of technology and achieve widespread digitisation across social care;
 - a £500 million investment in the workforce;
 - funding for a new practical support service to make minor repairs and changes in peoples' homes;
 - £30 million to help local areas innovate around the support and care they provide;
 - a new national website to explain the upcoming changes and at least £5 million to pilot new ways to help people understand and access the care and support available;
 - up to £25 million to work with the sector to kick start a change in the services provided to support unpaid carers and,
 - more than £70 million to increase the support offer across adult social care to improve the delivery of care and support services.
- These improvements will bring tangible benefit to the lives of people who draw on care and support, their families, and their carers.
- Today's white paper is a bold and significant step in delivering our vision for a reformed adult social care system that is fit for the future.

How does the reform white paper fit with previous policies, the Care Act, and the integration white paper?

- We recognise that we are not starting from scratch. The Care Act 2014, particularly its focus on wellbeing, provides a strong foundation for our vision.
- The reform white paper is also part of a wider set of mutually-reinforcing reforms: the integration white paper; the Health and Care Bill that is currently going through Parliament and reforms to the public health system.
- The reform we have announced today builds upon the Care Act 2014, making it easier for local authorities and providers to develop new, innovative, and collaborative approaches across the social care landscape.

This reform white paper only outlines the spending for £1.1 billion of funding, although £1.7 billion was promised in the spending review. What has happened to the other £600 million?

- On 7 September we announced £5.4 billion over three years solely for adult social care reform. This investment has not changed.
- We set out at the Spending Review in October that £3.6 billion of the £5.4 billion will fund charging reform and enabling all local authorities to move towards paying providers a fair rate for care, and £1.7 billion will fund improvements in the system.
- Although exact spending plans may need to change over the three-year period – we will be spending £5.4 billion on adult social care. The reform white paper sets out more detail on our commitments for reform. It does not give a complete breakdown of the full funding amount but describes our priorities for investment and sets out initial funding commitments.

How has the reform white paper been developed with the sector including those with lived experience of care?

- We have worked with over 200 stakeholders to date across every region in England. A full list of whom is published alongside the reform white paper in Annex A. It includes local government, think-tanks, providers of care and their representatives, professional bodies, charities, unions, and people with lived experience of care and support.
- Our engagement has taken a range of forms including roundtable discussions, bilateral conversations, in-depth workshops and larger conference events.
- In particular, in developing the 10 year vision for adult social care, we have focussed on hearing the voice of those with lived experience of drawing upon care and support.

How will the reform white paper ensure working age adults and older adults are considered?

- Our 10 year vision for adult social care prioritises a) choice, control, and independence; b) access to outstanding quality and tailored care; and c) fairness and accessibility.
- Today's reform package will bring tangible benefit to the lives of people of all ages who draw on care and support, their families, and their carers.
- The white paper sets out ambitious new investment that will ensure that housing is at the heart of the health and care system locally – so that more people of all ages are able to live in a place that supports them to live independently for longer.
- We are investing at least £500 million over the next three years to harness and build on the significant skills and expertise already within the workforce which will support the delivery of consistent, person-centred care for all individuals.

How will you continue to engage the sector in developing reform plans after the reform white paper?

- These reforms are the first steps on the journey towards our vision for adult social care and we recognise the crucial role of the sector in driving change.
- As we set out in the white paper, we will continue to engage with people and organisations across the sector, and individuals with lived experience of drawing on care and support, to develop and design the implementation of these reforms.

How does the reform white paper relate to charging reform?

- The reforms set out in this white paper will be delivered in parallel to the charging reforms announced on 7 September. We see charging reform as a vital component of overall system reform.
- No one will lose out. Everybody will be better off under the system we are proposing than the one currently in operation. The new system significantly increases state support for care.
- Under the new system, anyone with assets under £20,000 will have their care costs fully covered by the state. The cost of care is capped at £86,000 over someone's lifetime and raises the point at which people meet the full cost of their care from £23,350 to £100,000.
- We will set out further detail on how we expect local authorities to use this funding to move towards paying providers a fair rate shortly.

The budget survey from ADASS estimates that local authorities have made £8 billion of savings on adult social care since 2010/11. The funding that the government has announced is not enough to address these cuts and improve the system.

- Since the introduction of the Care Act in 2014, net public spend on adult social care has increased at an average of 2.3% per year in real-terms.
- Net public spending on adult social care last year reached £20.7 billion, 3.2% higher than 2010/11 in real terms, a £0.6 billion real terms increase.
- In addition to the £5.4 billion we are investing in adult social care reform the Spending Review confirmed that this government is providing councils with £1.6 billion of new funding per year of the Spending Review period for social care and other services, and the flexibility to increase the adult social care precept by 1% a year.
- This means Core Spending Power for local authorities is estimated to increase by an average of 2.9% in real terms each year, including investment in adult social care reform. This is the largest increase in core funding for local authorities in over a decade.

Policy specific questions relating to the reform white paper

What exactly will the new housing investment pay for?

- The £300 million new investment in housing will put better housing at the heart of the adult social care system. It will support local areas to provide more supported and specialised housing, enabling more people to live independently for longer. It will do this by:
 - Increasing local areas' capacity to deliver supported housing.
 - Increasing local expenditure on support services for those living in supported housing.
 - Making more supported housing units available for use, as well as incentivising longer-term investment in new supported housing by local areas and housing providers.
- In the coming months, we will work in partnership with local authorities, housing providers and others to agree how we best target this new investment in housing.

How can individuals access money for home adaptations?

- The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) is a capital grant administered by local authorities in England that can help meet the cost of home adaptations for eligible people of all ages and tenures to help them live safely and independently.
- The grant funds, for example, stair-lifts, level access showers, wet rooms, winches, grabrails and ramps. More information about the grant and how to apply can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants> or on their local housing authority website.
- The white paper describes the various steps we are taking to ensure that more people can benefit from the DFG.

What are your plans for driving greater use of technology in social care?

- When technology is embedded seamlessly into services, it can be transformative: helping people to live happy, fulfilled lives wherever they draw on care and support. Digital tools can also be used to identify risk and prevent incidents like falls, urinary tract infections, medication errors and bedsores from occurring.
- We will invest at least £150 million over the next three years to ensure people, providers and the wider health and social care system are able to realise these benefits.
- This programme will support rapid adoption of digital social care records and deployment of care technologies like acoustic monitoring that can prevent falls. We will also support all providers to put in place the basic enablers required for digital transformation, including fibre broadband, digital skills and appropriate cyber security readiness.

What does £30 million to innovate around support and care mean?

- We know that there are some great examples of the adult social care sector changing and innovating.

- We want to make sure the best innovations are able to move from the margins into the mainstream, meaning more people can benefit. Therefore, we are investing to support local areas to adopt and scale up innovative models so that they are sustainable.
- We will invest up to £30 million in a new 'Innovative Models of Care' programme which will address the key barriers to embedding and 'mainstreaming' innovation in the sector. This will be done through Partnership working, risk-sharing funding and the provision of business support to providers.
- The programme will provide the vehicle for local areas to come together to trial and embed ambitious new services for addressing key priorities which will be agreed with the sector.

What is the government doing to support unpaid carers?

- Every proposal in this white paper is aimed at improving the daily lives of people who draw on care and support, their families, and their carers.
- Our vision of a reformed system places people at its heart – and that includes recognition and support for unpaid carers so that they are empowered to live happy, healthy, and fulfilling lives.
- The white paper sets out a new strategic approach centered around three core strands:
 - Working with the sector to kick start a change in the services provided to support unpaid carers
 - Identifying, recognising and involving unpaid carers
 - Supporting the economic and social participation of unpaid carers
- As part of this we are investing up to £25 million to work with the sector to kick start a change in the services provided to support unpaid carers. We expect that this fund will identify and test a range of new and existing interventions that support and work best for those with different caring circumstances.

How do these reforms improve the experience of someone seeking adult social care information and advice?

- We will be trialling new approaches and building an evidence base of 'what works' when providing personalised advice.
- This will be used to guide national policy making and support local authorities and their local partners on how best to use budgets on advice services.
- We want to ensure everyone who may need it has access to high quality personalised advice.
- We also want people to be able to compare providers more easily, including on price. This will make it easier for people to make an informed decision about the support that is right for them.

What are you doing to support the paid workforce?

- The social care workforce has demonstrated unwavering compassion, dedication, and skill over the course of the pandemic. We are proud of and immensely grateful to them.
- We have announced an unprecedented investment of at least £500 million in the adult social care workforce, which will transform jobs in social care. We will deliver a vision where people can experience a rewarding career with opportunities to develop and progress, where they are recognised for the vital work they do and where they feel their wellbeing is prioritised.
- This £500 million is a major investment in the training and development of social care staff. We will work with sector leaders and partners to co-develop the training offer so that it can address skills gaps and meets the needs of the workforce and the people who use services. The number and type of training places will be developed as part of that work. We want this investment to support as many social care workers who want to access and would benefit from training to be able to do so.
- Our policies also include a new career pathways map, a new national knowledge and skills framework to support training and development, policies to support care staff health and wellbeing, a new digital platform for social care staff and initiatives for social workers, nurses and other allied health professionals.

Why is the government introducing an assurance framework for local authorities?

- More and more people are relying on adult social care at some point in their lives, and we expect this trend to continue. Local authorities are responsible for ensuring that adult social care services in their area meet the needs of the people who live there, and given the greater reliance on social care, we are putting in place greater assurance.
- This is particularly important given the additional funding we are providing to support the reform agenda. Our proposals will make brilliant outcomes easier to spot and share, and it will be easier to see and respond where expected standards are not being met.

How will government make sure that the new assurance process improves the quality of care for those who experience care?

- We have introduced legislation to create a new duty for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to assess local authorities' delivery of their adult social care duties.
- CQC and DHSC will work closely with local authorities, people who draw on care and support and other stakeholders to develop this assessment framework, alongside more support tools to enable local authorities to improve performance as needed.
- We are also seeking to improve the quality, timeliness and accessibility of adult social care data to help us understand where social care is working well and where support is needed.

How will government ensure that there is consistency in local authority market shaping across the country?

- The white paper sets out a new ambition for market shaping, which emphasises a partnership approach between commissioners of health and social care and people who draw on care and support, unpaid carers, the wider community, as well as providers of housing, care and support.
- To deliver this ambition and ensure that excellent market shaping practice is universal, we will invest part of our increased improvement funding in strengthening local authority market-shaping, commissioning, and contract management capability.
- This will be underpinned by the introduction of the new duty for CQC, as part of the Health and Care Bill, to independently review and assess the performance of local authorities in delivering their adult social care duties, including market shaping.