

The lives we want to lead: The LGA green paper for adult social care and wellbeing

Purpose of consultation

To seek views from the public and professionals and to initiate debate about how to fund adult care and how the wider care and health system can be better geared towards supporting and improving people's wellbeing. The LGA will respond to the findings in the autumn to inform and influence the Government's green paper and spending plans.

Questions for consultation

Questions	Comments
Chapter 2: Delivering and improving wellbeing	
1. <i>What role, if any, do you think local government should have in helping to improve health and wellbeing in local areas?</i>	Local government is instrumental in engaging with local communities to improve the health and well-being of its citizens. We shape and deliver over 800 services so are at the very core of communities on many aspects. This means we are in the strongest position to help people as we operate in many aspects of all people's lives, to a greater or lesser extent.
Chapter 3: Setting the scene – the case for change.	
Why does social care matter?	
2. <i>In what ways, if any, is adult social care and support important?</i>	Adult social care describes the activities, services and relationships that help people live independent, healthy, active and inclusive lives. It covers a great variety of services, delivered by many different providers, in a selection of settings. For example, adult social care can include domiciliary (home) care, residential care, nursing care, day care opportunities, short respite breaks and the provision of equipment. It provides the practical support that people with care and support needs may require with daily tasks such as washing, eating and dressing. Adult Social Care is vital to ensure people with care and support needs are safeguarded from abuse and neglect and receive the care they need to ensure their basic personal care needs are met. Without Adult social care many people

	<p>with care and support needs would not receive the care they need and would endure great suffering. How we care for our most vulnerable citizens is the true litmus test of whether we are a civilised society.</p> <p>There is significant cross over between health and social care, and there are areas where healthcare is largely provided in a social care setting, for example care for dementia, Parkinson's and end of life care.</p> <p>As stated by the Dilnot Commission: "Social care supports people of all ages with certain physical, cognitive or age-related conditions in carrying out personal care or domestic routines. It helps people to sustain employment in paid or unpaid work, education, learning, leisure and other social support systems. It supports people in building social relationships and participating fully in society.</p> <p>Social care is part of a wider care and support system, which includes social care, the NHS, the social security system, housing support and public health services. It also includes the services provided by third-sector organisations, and the invaluable contribution made by carers and volunteers. The state pension and private financial products also provide income that is used for care and support needs."</p>
<p>3. <i>How important or not do you think that it is that decisions about adult social care and support are made at the local level?</i></p>	<p>The ownership and responsibility for funding of Adult Social Care should be held by central government. However, due to the diversity of local authority areas across the country it is important that decisions about local implementation models are taken locally. The local aspect of social care is important because it ensures accountability to local people</p>
<p>The need for continuous improvement</p>	

<p>4. <i>What evidence or examples can you provide, if any, that demonstrate improvement and innovation in adult social care and support in recent years in local areas?</i></p>	<p>Across South Tees Adult Social Care has consistently supported staff to embrace a culture of reablement to achieve more positive outcomes for adults. This focus across Adult Services has been empowering for staff who can see the real benefits of recovery and regaining independence for our residents with care and support needs.</p> <p>The investment in our community and residential reablement services has shown real value in facilitating people's recovery from illness and is highly regarded by our social work teams. We have also continually invested in expanding our Extra Care housing offer in partnership with Coast & Country Housing to promote the theme of reablement and independence under the Council priority of Longer and Healthier Lives.</p> <p>There is a direct correlation between the drive to support people's recovery and independence and the reduction in numbers of people being placed in long term institutional care. This achievement needs to be considered against our increasing population of elderly frail residents who are living longer with multiple and complex health conditions and high care needs.</p>
<p>The funding challenge and its consequences</p>	
<p>5. <i>What evidence or examples can you provide, that demonstrate the funding challenges in adult social care and support in recent years in local areas?</i></p>	<p>Funding challenges for Adult Social Care are a constant. With the continued austerity measures placed on local authorities the challenge of funding good quality care is ever increasing. The governments introduction of the Adult Social Care precept is not effective as for areas of high poverty and high need, there is a high proportion of people who are exempt from Council Tax and therefore it does not work. In fact, this system makes the richer borough's richer and the poorer borough's</p>

	poorer.
6. <i>What, if anything, has been the impact of funding challenges on local government's efforts to improve adult social care?</i>	In addition to the above, the funding streams, such as BCF and iBCF are only ever temporary so it is impossible to make long term improvements to Adult Social Care and commissioned services due to the constant uncertainty of future funding
7. <i>What, if anything, are you most concerned about if adult social care and support continues to be underfunded?</i>	The concern is that care providers will not be able to afford to stay in business and therefore there will not be enough care provision for domiciliary or residential care in our borough. We have already seen a number of care company's go out of business due to lack of financial sustainability. With an ageing population, the pressure on the system is going to get greater each year. Additionally, there will be a greater percentage of the population with Dementia related illnesses nationally and we need a sustainable properly funded strategy to ensure these people receive the care they need. As this situation worsens we will see more and more instances of poor care. Nationally, the workers who are employed to undertake this important role are by and large paid minimum wage and on zero hours contracts. This is not a reliable business model and if we want to ensure good quality care and support is provided to our vulnerable citizens then the role needs to be recognised and remunerated properly.
The Care Act: a legal foundation for care and support	
8. <i>Do you agree or disagree that the Care Act 2014 remains fit for purpose?</i>	Yes, although funding pressures are impacting on Council's ability to implement this to the letter of the law.
9. <i>What, if any, do you believe are the main barriers to fully implementing the Care Act 2014?</i>	Funding.
Chapter 4: The options for change	

Why is it so hard to change?	
<p>10. <i>Beyond the issue of funding what, if any, are the other key issues which must be resolved to improve the adult social care and support system?</i></p>	<p>The profile of Adult Social Care is always secondary to the NHS. This is unacceptable. Without Social Care the NHS would collapse, and vice versa. They are two sides of the same coin and need to be given parity of esteem at a national level. There must be a greater emphasis on integrated commissioning for better outcomes.</p> <p>The social care system is complex, confusing and hard to understand, in particular when it comes to funding and personal financial contributions. People are concerned about the need to pay for care but they are not making preparation for this and the rules are not clear. There needs to be greater clarity and public understanding of preparedness for times when care may be needed. This needs to be fair for all.</p>
Changing the system for the better	
<p>11. <i>Of the above options for changing the system for the better, which, if any, do you think are the most urgent to implement now?</i></p>	<p>Funding, including the requirement for individuals to contribute to their care costs. The continued significant reductions in funding for local authorities is now jeopardising the whole social care system and will impact on our communities and individuals across the country.</p> <p>Far greater emphasis on prevention and early intervention is required.</p>
<p>12. <i>Of the above options for changing the system for the better, which, if any, do you think are the most important to implement for 2024/25?</i></p>	<p>Joined up support for people from Health and Social Care.</p>
<p>13. <i>Thinking longer-term, and about the type of changes to the system, that the above options would help deliver, which options do you think are most important for the future?</i></p>	<p>They are all important as one will not succeed to reform the system without the others.</p>

<p>14. <i>Aside from the options given for improving the adult social care and support system in local areas, do you have any other suggestions to add?</i></p>	<p>Nothing further.</p>
<p>15. <i>What is the role of individuals, families and communities in supporting people's wellbeing, in your opinion?</i></p>	<p>We recognise the huge contribution that informal carers make in caring for our citizens with care needs. We must support them to continue in their caring role.</p> <p>Communities could be enabled and encouraged to take a greater interest and role on supporting people who need care. Organisations like U3A and other self-sufficient organisations as well as smaller community groups should be supported to remain successful and become more inclusive.</p> <p>However, the nature and co-morbidity of complex health conditions of many citizens require specialist care and we must strike the balance carefully.</p>
<p>How to pay for these changes</p>	
<p>16. <i>Which, if any, of the options given for raising additional funding would you favor to pay for the proposed changes to the adult social care and support system?</i></p>	<p>It is clear that no one solution is the answer to the funding problem. It will be necessary to implement a multifaceted approach to ensure fairness and sustainability.</p>
<p>17. <i>Aside from the options given for raising additional funding for the adult social care and support system in local areas, do you have any other suggestions to add?</i></p>	<p>Not at this time.</p>
<p>18. <i>What, if any, are your views on bringing wider welfare benefits (such as Attendance Allowance) together with other funding to help meet lower levels of need for adult social care and support?</i></p>	<p>Changing attendance allowance to a care and support allowance could be positive.</p>
<p>19. <i>What are your views on the suggested tests for judging the</i></p>	<p>These seem appropriate.</p>

<i>merits of any solution/s the Government puts forward in its green paper?</i>	
Cross-party political cooperation	
<i>20. In your opinion, to achieve a long-term funding solution for adult social care and support, to what extent is cross-party-cooperation and/or cross-party consensus needed?</i>	Cross-party cooperation and consensus is vital to secure long term solutions to Adult Social Care sustainability. Without this any change in government administration would risk shelving of policies as we have seen in the past with Valuing People, etc.
Chapter 5: Adult social care and wider wellbeing	
The role of public health	
<i>21. What role, if any, do you think public health services should have in helping to improve health and wellbeing in local areas?</i>	Local Public Health services should be a key partner in improving health and wellbeing in local areas.
The role of other council services and those of local partners	
<i>22. What evidence or examples, if any, can you provide that demonstrate the impact of other local services (both council services outside of adult social care and support, and those provided by other organizations) on improving health and wellbeing?</i>	<p>The impact of joint working with Public Health services to improve awareness and the experience of people with dementia through Dementia Friendly communities work. This will ensure greater community support for individuals with such conditions to reduce the isolating impact of a dementia diagnosis.</p> <p>Strategic partnership working with Registered Social Landlords in the development Extra Care Housing Schemes has been successful in providing alternative appropriate care for people who are able to maintain independent living in their own homes.</p>
<i>23. To what extent, if any, are you seeing a reduction in these other local services?</i>	All local services have been effected and reduced by significant government cuts.
Chapter 6: Adult social care and the NHS	
Social care and health working together	

<p>24. <i>What principles, if any, do you believe should underpin the way the adult social care and support service and the NHS work together?</i></p>	<p>Both organisations are of equal importance and one should not be given or gain precedence over the other. As the linking of BCF funding to discharge targets imposed by central government is undermined local partnerships, so is the lack of proper funding arrangements for the Transforming Care agenda which remains the elephant in the room for this important programme.</p>
<p>Accountability in the NHS</p>	
<p>25. <i>In your opinion, how important or unimportant is it that decisions made by health services are understood by local people, and the decision-makers are answerable to them?</i></p>	<p>It is vital that decisions made by health services are understood by local people, and the decision-makers are answerable to them.</p>
<p>26. <i>Do you think the role of health and wellbeing boards should be strengthened or not?</i></p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>27. <i>Which, if any, of the options for strengthening the role of health and wellbeing boards do you support?</i></p>	<p>To address the democratic deficit in the NHS Health & Wellbeing Boards should locally lead the joined-up planning for the BCF or other joint funding streams between health and social care.</p>
<p>28. <i>Do you have any suggestions as to how the accountability of the health service locally could be strengthened?</i></p>	<p>Greater accountability to the Health & Wellbeing Boards. Health partners do attend Council Scrutiny committees at times when requested. This will ensure alignment of a strategic health and social care vision for better outcomes for our citizens.</p>
<p>New NHS funding – how it can benefit the system</p>	
<p>29. <i>Which, if any, of the options for spending new NHS funding on the adult social care and support system would you favor?</i></p>	<p>Funding of care navigators in GP surgeries has been tried locally and this has proven unsuccessful as GPs have not referred patients to the care navigators. This option would not be supported.</p> <p>Shared information to track people through the health and care system would enable much better working, an improved service</p>

	<p>for people and less delay in waiting for requested information.</p> <p>Any investment in digital activity needs to recognise and fund the critical interface with local authorities.</p> <p>Consideration of local authorities taking more responsibility would be supported if the appropriate level of funding is provided.</p>
<p><i>30. Do you have any other comments or stories from your own experience to add?</i></p>	<p>Nothing further.</p>

All responses to the survey needs to be forwarded to socialcareconversation@local.gov.uk by 26th September 2018.