

# Caring for our future

Reforming care and support



EasyRead version of the  
Government's White Paper  
on care and support



# What is in this paper?



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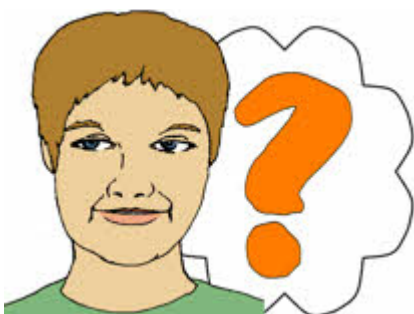
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# About this White Paper



This is an EasyRead version of our **White Paper** about our plans to make care and support better.

Difficult words are written in **bold**. There is a list of what these words mean at the end.



When we say 'we' in this booklet, we mean the Government.



The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats joined together, after the election in 2010, to become a **coalition government**.



We both agreed how important it was to do something about care and support in England and these are our plans to make it better.





Most importantly, we want to help people:

- to be more **independent**



- to have choice and control over their care and support



- to live their lives in the way they want



- and to keep their human rights.

# What is care and support?



Care and support means lots of different things for different people.



It depends on what each person needs, but can include things like:

- help to get out of bed, get dressed or washed



- eating or cooking meals



- help with seeing friends and family



- caring for others.



We all know someone who needs care and support, and most people will need some care and support themselves at some time in their lives.



Care and support comes from lots of different people; family, friends, people in the community.



Depending on how much money people have, the Government helps to pay for some parts of care and support.





This **White Paper** is for:

- people who are 18 or older



- the people who work in care and support



- family carers and others who care for someone.

## What we have done so far



The Government has already done a lot to change care and support.

In 2010, we wrote an EasyRead paper called “Our plans for social care for adults”.



We said we would spend more money on social care in the next few years.

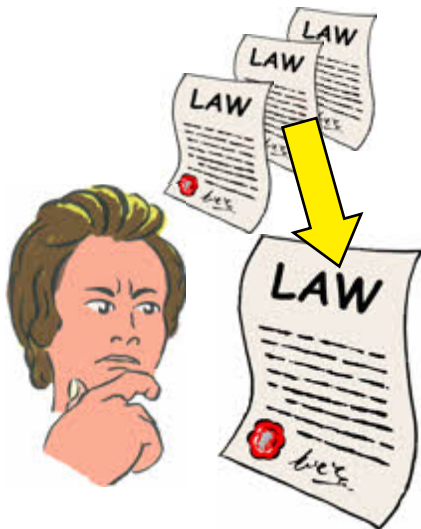


## Reports from other people

This White Paper and progress report on funding includes what we think about reports from 2 other groups as well.



1. **The Law Commission** looked at the laws we have about care and support at the moment.



They said the laws are confusing and this makes it difficult for people to know what they might get.

They said all of the different bits of laws should be put together into one new law.



There is an EasyRead version of the Law Commission's report here:

**[www.tinyurl.com/LawCommPlanER](http://www.tinyurl.com/LawCommPlanER)**



2. **The Dilnot Commission** looked at how care should be paid for and who should pay for what.

They said that there should be a set limit to how much people pay for care.



The Dilnot Commission also had some other ideas about care and support.



There is an EasyRead version of their report here:

**[www.tinyurl.com/DilnotReportER](http://www.tinyurl.com/DilnotReportER)**

## Paying for care and support



Paying for care at the moment is unfair and confusing.



Government pays for care when people have spent most of their own money. This means people often have to use their savings and sell their homes to pay for care.



As well as our **White Paper**, we have written a report on the subject of how people should pay for care in the future.

You can get this report on our website here:



**[www.tinyurl.com/FundingCare](http://www.tinyurl.com/FundingCare)**

An EasyRead version will be on the same website soon.





## Problems with care and support at the moment



In 2011 we asked a lot of people about how to make care and support better.

You told us:



✗ there are lots of problems with care at the moment



✗ people do not understand how care and support works



✗ access to care and support is different in different parts of the country



✗ people are not helped to plan for the future





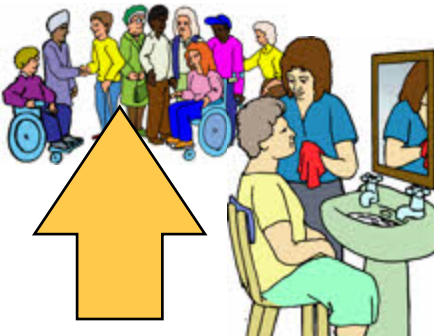
✗ there is not enough information about what to do if a person needs care and support



✗ care and support does not support people to be independent or have control of their care



✗ people are sometimes not treated as well as they should be



✗ more people will need support in the future.



Big changes are needed to make sure people live the lives they want in the future.

Changes should happen now.



## What we want care and support to be like



The plans in our **White Paper** will make sure:



- care and support meets people's needs



- we help people to be independent and look after themselves as far as possible



- people have better choice and are given information to help them with their choices



- people are treated well and respected



- people are safe



- we give better training to more people working in care and support



- we help communities get stronger so people can share their skills and talents. We help people to get involved in their local communities



- we treat carers as the very important people they are



- the health and wellbeing of carers is better supported



- we make it easier for people to move to other parts of the country for a job, or to be closer to family and still get the care and support they need.



## What we want to hear people saying in the future



The **White Paper** says how we will sort out the problems people have told us about care and support.

When that happens we want to hear people say things like:

I am supported to keep independent for as long as I can be.



I understand how care and support works, and what I get.





**I am happy with my care and support.**



**My support workers or carers treat me with dignity and respect.**

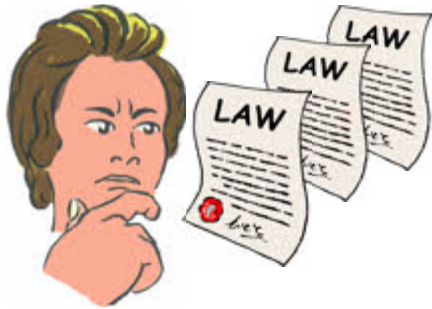


**I am in control of my care and support.**





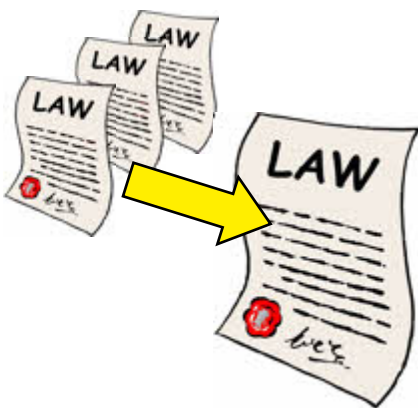
## Making care and support better



As we said on **page 6**, the Law Commission told us the laws about care are confusing.



We want everyone to understand what care and support is and what they should get.



So we have started writing a new law that will do away with the old laws.



The new law on care and support will bring the law up to date. It will be easier and simple to understand.



It will:

- make it easier for people who provide services to do things differently and better



- make it clear what people can get



- help people know what their rights are



- help people plan ahead



- mean that people get the information and advice they need



- make sure people can get help to stop problems early.



We want to make sure that we have got the new law right. It will be checked by people in Parliament.



We would also like to know what you think about the new law, and will be asking you in summer 2012.



There is an EasyRead version of the draft Care and Support Bill here:

**[www.tinyurl.com/careandsupportbill](http://www.tinyurl.com/careandsupportbill)**



We then want to make it law as soon as possible, after it has been looked at in Parliament.



And then we need everyone to work well together to make the changes happen.





## What the words mean

<b>Coalition Government</b>	A coalition is when people agree to do something together. A coalition in parliament is when 2 or more parties join together to make the Government.
<b>Dilnot Commission</b>	A group of experts led by Andrew Dilnot looked at how care should be paid for and who should pay for what
<b>Direct Payments</b>	Support money from Government that is given straight to people to spend on support that meets their needs.
<b>Healthwatch</b>	A new group taking over from LINKs. They will help local people have a say about their health and social care services.
<b>Independent</b>	Being able to do as much as you can for yourself with support when you need it.
<b>Law Commission</b>	The Law Commission is an independent group that checks on the law and says when they think it needs changing.

**Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)**

LINKs are made up of individuals and community groups, such as faith groups and residents' groups, working together to make health and social care services better.

**Personal Budget**

A Personal Budget is the total amount of money people have for their support. It can come from several different places and is all put together.

**Self Advocacy**

People speaking up for themselves or others with learning disabilities, often with support from a self advocacy group or as members of the group.

**Strategy**

A plan.

**White Paper**

A White Paper is a Government paper that says what we plan to do about something. White Papers are often turned into law to make sure that what we want to do happens.





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Ref ISL379/11. July 2012.



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