



## FACTSHEET 1

# The Care Bill - General responsibilities of local authorities: Prevention, information and market-shaping

*“Information, information, information – without it, how can people be truly at the heart of decisions? Information should be available to all regardless of how their care is paid for. There are some things that should be universal – information is one”*

A public response to the ‘Caring for our future’ engagement

*This factsheet describes how the Care Bill places a series of new duties and responsibilities on local authorities about care and support for adults.*

## What role do local authorities play in care and support?

Under the Care Bill local authorities will take on new functions. This is to make sure that people who live in their areas:

- receive services that prevent their care needs from becoming more serious
- can get the information they need to make good decisions about care and support
- have a good range of providers to choose from

## How will the Bill help prevent people developing care and support needs?

The Care Bill will help to improve people’s independence and wellbeing. It makes clear that local authorities must arrange services that help prevent or delay people

deteriorating such that they would need on-going care and support.

Local authorities will have to consider various factors:

- what services, facilities and resources are already available in the area (for example local voluntary and community groups), and how these might help local people
- identifying people in the local area who might have care and support needs that are not being met
- identifying carers in the area who might have support needs that are not being met

In taking on this role, local authorities will work with their communities to get the support that helps to keep people well and independent.

## How will we improve information and advice?

Local authorities will need to provide comprehensive information and advice about care and support services in their local area. This will

help people to understand how care and support services work locally, the care and funding options available, and how people can access care and support services.

The Bill clearly sets out that they must provide information on:

- what types of care and support are available – eg specialised dementia care, befriending services, re-ablement, personal assistance, residential care etc
- the range of care and support services available to local people, i.e. what local providers offer certain types of services
- what process local people need to use to get the care and support that is available
- where local people can find independent financial advice about care and support and help them to access it
- how people can raise concerns about the safety or wellbeing of someone who has care and support needs

## How will the Bill improve the range and quality of services available?

The Care Bill requires local authorities to support a market that delivers a wide range of sustainable high-quality care and support services that will be available to their communities.

When buying and arranging services, local authorities must consider how

they might affect an individual's wellbeing. This makes it clear that local authorities should think about whether their approaches to buying and arranging services undermine the wellbeing of people receiving those services (such as inappropriately short home visits).

A wider range of good quality services will give people more control and help them to make more personalised choices over their care. They will therefore get better care that works for them.

To help local authorities take on this new role, the Government will support them to influence the development of the kinds of services that are best for their local community through “market-shaping”. This will include local authorities developing a market position statement. These statements will provide a powerful signal to the market by identifying care and support needs across the community and explaining how the local authority intends to buy in services in the future. The statements will also mean that companies providing care and support know who they are designing services for so they can develop the right care for the right people.