

Caring for our future

A report about how people should pay for care



EasyRead version of:

**Caring for our future:
Progress report on funding reform**



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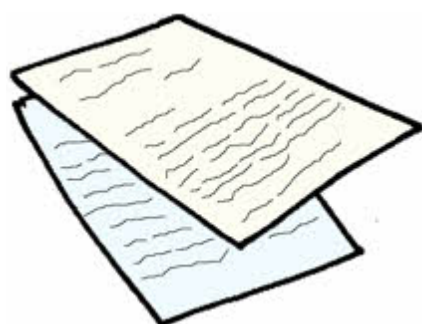
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About this report



This is an EasyRead version of our report on the work we have done so far looking at how care should be paid for in the future.

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



You can see the longer version of this report on our website:

www.tinyurl.com/FundingCare



When we say 'we' in this report we mean the Government.



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



The coalition agreed it was important to change the way care and support in England is paid for. This report tells you what we have done about it so far.



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.



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

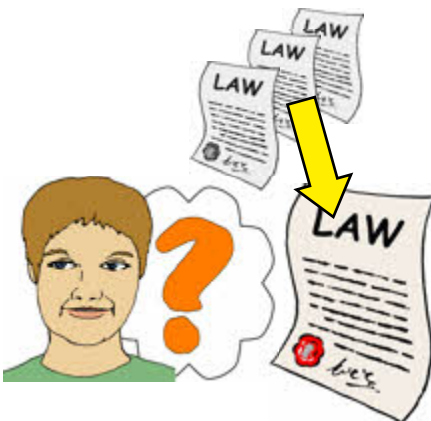


- and to keep their human rights.

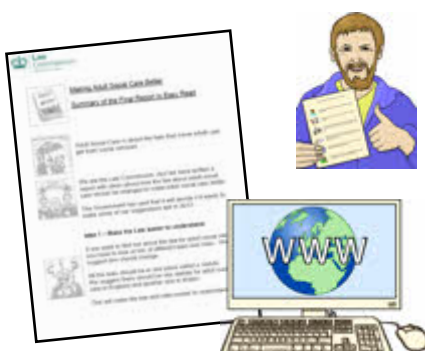


This report is about who pays for care and support. We also have plans for making care and support better. These are explained here:

www.tinyurl.com/CareAndSupportWP



We are also planning to change the law about care and support to make it easier to understand.



You can read our plans for the law on our website here:

www.tinyurl.com/LawCommPlanER

Paying for care and support



The Government will help people pay for their care if they do not have enough money. We think it is important that this continues.



But people who do have enough money have to pay for their care themselves. Some people have to spend a lot of their money on care. Lots of people think this is unfair.



Because of this we asked **Andrew Dilnot** to lead a **Commission** to look at how care should be paid for and who should pay for what.



They did their work and wrote a report. There is an EasyRead version of their report here:

www.tinyurl.com/DilnotReportER

The Dilnot Commission



The Commission looked at the way care and support is paid for.

They said that:

- some people have to use most of their savings and sell their homes to pay for care.

People think this is unfair



- people are worried because they would like to be able to plan how they will pay for care, but they cannot do this if they do not know how much it will cost



- paying for care is unfair and confusing.

They said that to make things better:



- people should pay up to a certain amount for their care, if they have enough money. This is called a **cap**.

The Commission said the cap should be between £25,000 and £50,000.



- after that the Government should pay. This would mean people do not have to use most of their money on care anymore



- the Government should give extra help to people with less money



- people in care homes should have to pay towards their food, heating and lighting



- people should not feel rushed to sell their homes if they need to go into a care home.

Listening to what you think



Since the Commission's report we have been asking people what they think, including:

- people who use services



- family carers



- people who are employed to give care and support



- the **Opposition**



- Local Authorities and others.



People said:

- they liked the idea of a cap on how much people spend on care



- changes have to be made urgently

 Information



- they need information about how it all works



- people should not have to sell their homes in a rush.



People had different ideas about how much the cap should be. Some people said it could be up to £75,000.

Everyone agreed the care system must have enough money.



What we think about the Commission's ideas

The Government thinks the Commission's ideas about funding are good.



But there are some things we need to think more about before we decide what to do.



We like the idea of having a **cap** and providing extra help to people with less money.

But this will mean that the Government has to spend more money.



We do not have a lot of money at the moment so we need to think carefully about what to spend money on.



We will look at this in more detail when we do our next review of what we spend money on. This will include deciding on the cap.



What plans have we made already?

We have already decided to do some things.



We recognise that it is important care and support has enough money.



We gave additional money to care and support when we last looked at how much we spend.



If you own your own home, you will not need to sell straight away if you go into a care home.



We will have the same rules about who can get care and support for everyone, all over the country.



People will be able to get good clear information about care, how the system works and what you can get.



The new law on care and support will completely change how carers are treated.



For the first time they will have a right to support and a right to an **assessment**.



We are working on new ways care services can work with health services.



There will be more money to support local areas doing exciting new work helping people's health and **wellbeing**.

Our next steps



When deciding how best to change how people pay for care and support, we want to work with other people and the **Opposition** in parliament to look at the choices we have and decide what the best thing to do is.



What the words mean

Assessment

An assessment is a what happens when your local council meets you to decide what your care needs are and who should pay.

Cap

A cap is the most money that anyone should have to pay for care.

Coalition

A Coalition is when people agree to do something together. A coalition in parliament is when two or more parties join together to make the Government.

Dilnot Commission

A group of experts, led by Andrew Dilnot, who looked at how care should be paid for and who should pay for what.

Opposition

In parliament, the party with the most votes are in power and make up the Government. The party who came second are called the opposition. At the moment the opposition are the Labour party.

Wellbeing

Wellbeing is about how happy and content you are. The Government thinks about your wellbeing when making decisions. It is important to think about wellbeing because it will be the main thing that the council needs to think about when making decisions.



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