

Caring for our future

Have your say about how social care should change



Easy read

Social Care

This is an easy read version of a leaflet called **Caring for our future: shared ambitions for care and support**.

On 15 September, we started to talk to people who work in and use **adult social care and support** services about how social care could change.

This booklet explains how you can have your say about the changes.

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

You may like to have someone to help you when you look at this booklet. Difficult words are written in **purple** letters. There is a list of these words and what they mean on pages 15 and 16.



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What is social care?

Social care and support services help people who cannot manage by themselves with everyday tasks.



For example, people may need help to:

- live in their home
- get washed and dressed
- go out and about
- meet friends.

People may also need help and support when they are upset or feel that they cannot cope.

You may need social care because you are old or because you have an illness or disability which makes it difficult for you to look after yourself.

You may be looked after by a family member or by someone who is paid to look after you.

You may also need somewhere safe to live where there are people who can look after you.



How social care works

At the moment, **social care** is provided by lots of different organisations.

If you need care, your local council will meet you to talk about what sort of care you need and how it could be paid for.



This is called an **assessment**.

Some people pay for social care out of their own money.

People who do not have much money have their care paid for by the Government.

In this case, they may get care services from their local council.

Or they may be given money to arrange their own care. This is called a **direct payment**.



Why do we need to change the way social care works?

People tell us that the way **social care** works at the moment is unfair and confusing.

Different people need different types of care.

Sometimes our social care system lets down the people who need it most.

Also, people are living longer.

This is something to celebrate.

But it means there will be more people to look after, and it will cost more money.

We need to find a fair way to make sure everyone gets the social care they need.

People want better care services and more choice about the type of care they have.

People also need to be able to plan how they will pay for their care.



How do we decide what to do?

Two **independent commissions** have written reports about **social care**.

An independent commission is a group of people who are given the power to do something. It is not part of the Government.



The **Law Commission** advises the Government on laws.

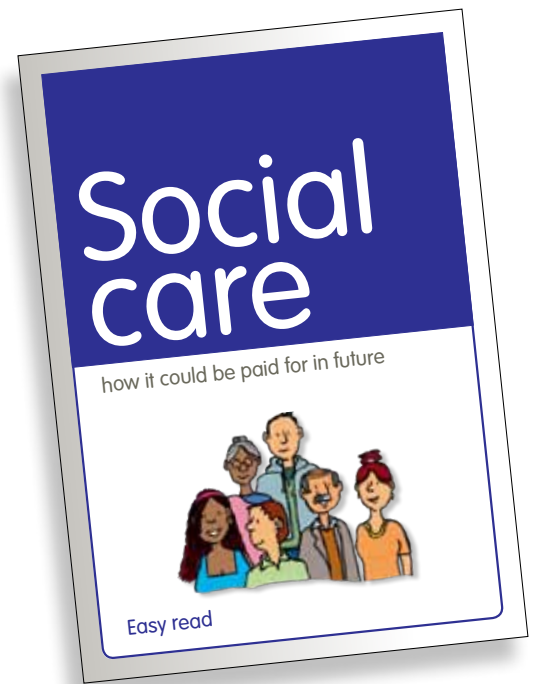
It said that adult social care law is confusing and needs to be updated.

The **Commission on Funding of Care and Support** looked at how social care is paid for.

It said that the way social care is paid for should be made fairer.

The Commission on Funding of Care and Support suggested that no one should have to pay more than £35,000 towards the cost of their care.

If a person's care cost more than that, the Government would pay. No one would have to £35,000 if they cannot afford to.



£35,000

We also asked experts to write a report about **end-of-life care** called the **Palliative Care Funding Review**.

End-of-life care is care for people who are very ill and will not get better and the doctors think they will die soon.

Palliative care is care that doesn't cure people but which can make them feel better and more comfortable.



The ideas in these reports will help us to plan how **social care** could work in future.

We want people to be able to choose the type of care that is best for them.

We want to make sure that people are looked after properly.

We want nurses and other carers to have good training and to get the support they need.



6 questions about social care

We have listed 6 things we think are important about **social care**.

We want to know what everyone thinks about these 6 things, including you.



1) Quality of care

How could care be better?
How could people who provide care be trained better?

2) Personalisation

Personalisation means taking something general and changing it so it suits you better.

How could we give people more choice so that they can choose the type of care that is best for them?



3) Shaping local care services

How can we make sure there are lots of local organisations which can provide different types of care?



4) Prevention

- **Prevention** means stopping something from happening.

How can we stop people's health from getting worse and help them to look after themselves for longer?



5) Integration

- **Integration** means making things work better together.

How can we make sure the NHS, **social care** and other support services work more closely together to make things easier for people who use more than one service?



6) The role of financial services

Financial services are provided by banks and insurance companies. They can include:

- bank and savings accounts which help people save money
- insurance policies which help people prepare for the future.



What sort of financial products and services would be useful for carers and people who need care?

Tell us what you think

From now until the beginning of December, we will be talking to carers, local councils and people in the NHS.

We will also be listening to people who use **social care**.

We want to know what you think about the questions on social care listed on pages 9 and 10.



We also want to know:

- What do you think are the most important things to change about social care?
- What do you think about the ideas suggested by the **Commission on Funding of Care and Support** on page 7?



You do not have to answer all or any of these questions if you do not want to.

You may also want to talk about your ideas with other people like your family and carers before you tell us about them.



- You can email us at caringforourfuture@dh.gsi.gov.uk



- You can write to us at:

Caring for our future
Area 117, Wellington House
133–155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG



- You can give your comments on our website by visiting www.caringforourfuture.dh.gov.uk



Make sure you tell us what you think before **2 December**.

Friday **2** **December**

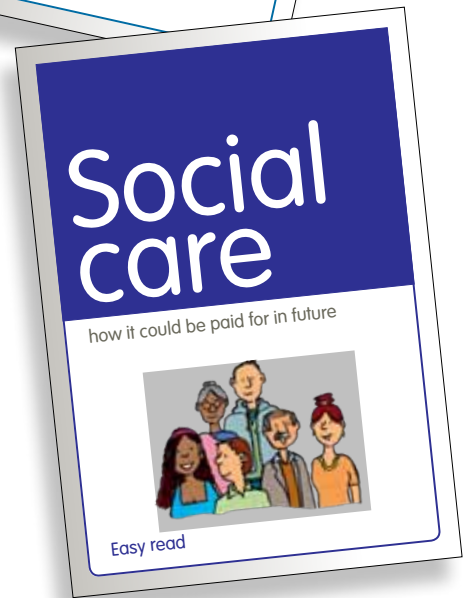
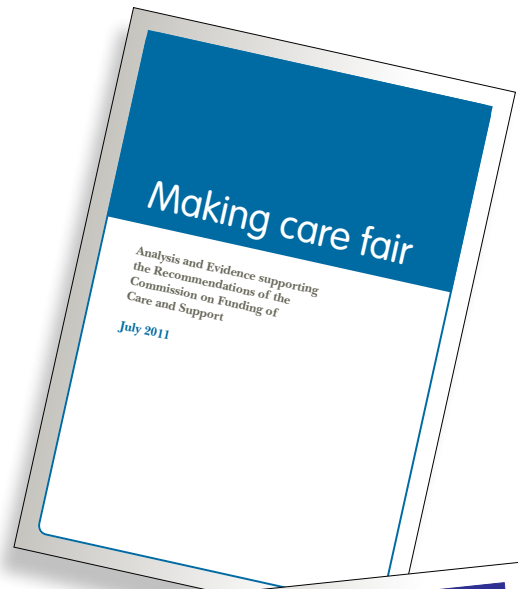
How to find out more

You may want to find out more about our plans for **social care** before you tell us what you think.

You can read the full report written by the **Commission on Funding of Care and Support** at www.wp.dh.gov.uk/carecommission/files/2011/07/Fairer-Care-Funding-Report.pdf

You can read the easy read version of the report at www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_128019.pdf

You can find out more about how social care could change by visiting www.caringforourfuture.dh.gov.uk



What happens next

When everyone has had a chance to tell us what they think, we will look at their ideas.

This will help us decide what to do.

In spring next year, we will publish a White Paper on **social care** which will explain our plans.



A **White Paper** is a government report which sets out our plans on a particular issue.



Difficult words

adult social care and support: adult social care is care for adults who cannot manage by themselves. It helps people cope with everyday tasks they cannot do on their own.

assessment: an assessment is what happens when your local council meets you to decide what care you need and how it should be paid for.

Commission on Funding of Care and Support: the Commission on Funding of Care and Support is a group which looked at how social care is paid for.

direct payment: a direct payment is money given to someone by their local council so that they can arrange their own care.

end-of-life care: end-of-life care is care for people who are very ill and will not get better and the doctors think they will die soon.

independent commission: an independent commission is a group of people who are given the power to do something. It is not part of the Government.

integration: integration means making things work better together.

Law Commission: the Law Commission is a group which advises the Government on laws.

palliative care: this is care that doesn't cure people but which can make them feel better and more comfortable.

personalisation: personalisation means taking something general and changing it so it suits you better.

prevention: prevention is stopping something from happening.

social care: social care is care for people who cannot manage by themselves. It helps them cope with everyday tasks they cannot do on their own.

White Paper: a White Paper is a government report which sets out our plans on a particular issue.



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