

An Equal Life for all

The #SocialCareFuture White Paper



(if we were in government)

November 2021

#socialcarefuture

A vision for our shared future

We all want to live in the place we call home, with the people and things that we love, in communities where we look out for one another, doing what matters to us.



As the deprivations of Covid-19 have taught all of us, these are the foundation stones of our health and wellbeing. That's why concrete progress towards securing and sustaining this for everyone must be the acid test of our social care reforms.

A wellbeing revolution



No longer will we accept that illness, older age or disability should deny people the same wellbeing as others or that social care should be defined via the provision of institutional, time and task, transactional "services". This White Paper is about people first, not systems and structures. It is about how we and the people we care about are all able to live our lives in ways that sustain our wellbeing, where we can secure the support to be and do the things we value most and which allow us to support each other. Our goals are to bring to life the wellbeing principles in the Care Act 2014.

A place we call home



Achievement of the vision of this White Paper requires a significant shift away from institutional and transactional models of support. Many more people will be supported to live well at home and when people choose accommodation with support this will be from a much wider range of options all of which will prioritise the human connections and relationships that people prize most of all. Increasingly a wider range of ownership models will be developed including locally embedded micro and community business options. Regulation will adapt to support not hinder these developments

Communities where we look out for one another



We will invest in strengthening families and communities to support one another, not as an alternative to support from government, but as a new partnership. We recognise that building and strengthening the ties that bind our communities together is at least as important to our future health and wellbeing as building hospitals. As well as more generally investing in these firm foundations, we will support and encourage investment in 'connectors', represented in relationship centred initiatives such as Community Circles, Local Area Coordination and Shared Lives Plus.

Tech for wellbeing



We believe new and emerging technology can play a transformative role, provided it is oriented towards extending and expanding wellbeing. We will invest in, support and spread innovation, including harnessing the Internet of Things to revolutionise smart home technology, investing in remote monitoring of health and wellbeing, in telemedicine and assistive technologies. We will harness the power of data analytics and Artificial Intelligence to better understand the factors that enhance our wellbeing, as well as to deepen and expand the choice and control we are able to exercise over our lives.

People power



The purpose of social care is to draw together the support we need to live the lives we wish to lead, through which we can maintain our wellbeing. That demands that we redouble our efforts to put power into the hands of those with cause to draw on support, over that support and over their lives. To those ends, we will make as a priority investment in the architecture, offline and harnessing digital technology, that provides people – whether drawing on State support or using their own resources - with the confidence, inspiration, support and practical means to take charge.

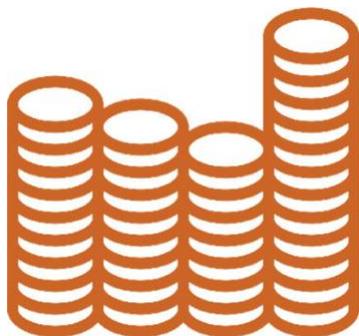
All local councils, working with partners, will be required to co-produce strategies with local citizens that set out how they will make changes over the next 10 years to achieve the vision at the start of this White Paper

Assurance of local councils will focus on how those that draw on support are involved in and powerfully influence commissioning and market shaping, and on reducing the red-tape and monitoring surrounding direct payment and other models of self-directed support. Monitoring will focus on how well councils progress towards co-produced plans building from the Making it Real I and We statements

An era of innovation

We will incrementally invest more in supporting and promoting wellbeing, but our focus will be on investing to unlock the abundant assets, innovation and power to make change happen that already resides among people and communities. The era of transactional, traditional life and limb care services must give way to one in which people are encouraged and supported to creatively satisfy their own needs and life goals to the end of their own wellbeing, about which they know best. We will work with local councils and others to reform and remove obstacles to such innovation and we will assign £500 million over the next 3 years to a transformation fund and programme to prospect for, nurture and help spread promising innovations. People that draw on support to lead their lives will be centrally involved in the establishment and running of this programme.

Great jobs and local economic development



We want to build bridges, not walls, attracting more people from all backgrounds to bring their talents to help bring about this wellbeing revolution. Moving beyond only a narrow conception of the 'care worker' we imagine new exciting opportunities, from a wellbeing coach, to a circles facilitator or local area coordinator, a support curator, or smart home technology engineer. That way we can see the future of social care as an opportunity ripe for investment.

We believe that people that support us to maintain our wellbeing should enjoy pay, conditions and prospects that allows them to maintain theirs. We believe that there are new ways to organise social care that allow people working in the field to improve their pay and working lives and which enable a greater return on investment in our local economies, such as growing the role of community businesses, micro-enterprises and care cooperatives, and via self-managing teams. We will invest in supporting these models to develop and grow across the country.

Resources and resourcefulness

Nothing less than a revolution is required in how social care supports wellbeing. Such a revolution requires significant increases in funding. But the new funding must achieve both major improvement in people's life experiences while at the same time becoming increasingly sustainable. Instead of investing in services of last resort which people clearly and increasingly do not want, we will invest in activities which promote independence and inclusion, releasing and adding to both wider public service resources and those of local communities and civic society

In order to start this process of revolution in social care, we will guarantee that the balance of the Health and Social Care Levy will be rapidly shifted towards social care. A minimum of £12b will be provided in the first three years, with significant front loading. This funding will be targeted at first at 1. Getting better support to the thousands currently denied it 2. Creating the conditions for major change 3. Starting a ten-year programme of innovation

Our investment areas

To achieve the innovation and stronger communities we seek, we will promote innovation and grow our investment in the following:

- Living well at home
- New approaches to support with accommodation
- Sustaining and regaining independence
- Staying well, connected to others, making contributions

Tell us what you think

Join #SocialCareFuture to share your thoughts and ideas about how to achieve our vision. Over the winter we'll be holding monthly gatherings, where 'keynote listeners' will respond to people who draw on social care as we explore the themes in this paper. Details are [here](#).

You can find us on Twitter @socfuture

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