

Background

Local authority commissioned adult social care provides care, support, and safeguards for those people in our communities who have the highest level of need and for their carers. **Good care and support transforms lives, helping people to live good lives, or the best they can, in a variety of circumstances.** It enhances health and wellbeing, increasing independence, choice and control. It is distinctive, valued, and personal.

But it has reached a crisis point, with funding failing to keep pace with the rising needs of people in England. This is having a significant impact on older and disabled people and their families. We are living longer but have more complex care and support needs. Once those needs would have been met by the NHS or in institutions. Now we want to be part of our families and communities. The Care Act is excellent legislation, focussing on wellbeing, prevention, personalised services, a vibrant supply of care options and safeguards for people at risk of abuse or neglect. There is significant doubt that it can be implemented.

The Current Context

Immediate Financial Challenges

- ADASS' position is that **adult social care needs an additional £3.1 billion resources in 2020/21** compared with 2019/20 to meet current and future pressures
- In **2018/19 adult social care delivered approximately £700m of savings from local authority budgets, with a further £699m required in 2019/20.** Cumulatively since 2010 savings to adult social care budgets have amounted to approximately £7.7bn.
- The increasingly challenging financial environment means that **62% of Directors of Adult Social Services (DASSs) are least confident about meeting statutory duties relating to care market sustainability,** increasing to 79% in 2020/21.
- **There is now an over-reliance upon the use of time limited funding streams to fund vital public services and delivered balanced budgets,** at a time when complexity of need, demand for services and the cost of service provision are increasing, while funding for adult social care has reduced in real-terms since 2010.
- This is evidenced by the fact that **92% of DASSs have assumed that the Better Care Fund,** or a similar quantum of funding, **will continue into 2020/21,** while 75% have planned for the Improved Better Care Fund to continue.

Care Market Sustainability

- A consequence of the ongoing financial challenges is that **care markets are failing in some parts of the country.** Last year Allied failed. Four Seasons Healthcare is now up for sale. The 2019 ADASS Budget Survey found that this fragility and underfunding resulted in the number of people impacted by the closure of home care providers increasing from 3,290 in 2017/18 to 7,019 in 2018/19 (+113%). Whilst the number of people impacted by care home closures was 1,173 people in 2018/19.

What Needs to Change?

Funding Sustainable Adult Social Care

- ADASS **supports reform to provide clarity as to what people can expect from the state in terms of care, support and safeguards** and what, if anything, an individual might be expected to pay.
- It is imperative that **if we are to place adult social care on a sustainable footing, then there must be a shift from short-termism to the development and delivery of a long-term, fully-funded, plan for the sector.**
- We **advocate a greater pooling of risk across society** and believe the state should extend its role in securing sufficient resources.

- Funding should cover the range of needs, be **fair and based on the best balance of taxation, potential re-prioritisation of other benefits** (pensions and non-means tested benefits), **an individual's contribution and private insurance**.

Workforce

- The **quality of care and support services is dependent upon a skilled, valued and appropriately remunerated workforce**.
- The **1.5m people who work in social care deserve 'parity of esteem' with their NHS counterparts**; to be able to work in a service that is valued and rewarded.
- **It is shameful that care is often seen as unskilled** when it requires commitment, dedication, skill, compassion and resilience.
- An overstretched workforce, with insufficient training and career opportunities means that the psychological reward of caring for people is greatly diminished. The low remuneration of care workers means that many cannot afford to live in some parts of the country or in decent quality accommodation. Suitable accommodation isn't just an issue for people receiving services but for the social care workforce as well.

Why Should the Government Invest in Adult Social Care?

Social care funding gets results

- Additional money for social care gets through to front line services and brings direct benefits for individuals and families. Councils have used the recent short-term funding that they have received to support more people, increase the unit price for a number of services and, reduce levels of delayed discharges from hospital.

The value to the economy

- The care sector- both publicly funded and private- is worth £46bn to the national economy, approximately 1% of GDP.
- 1.5m people form the adult social care workforce (which is larger than the NHS)

What could additional investment achieve?

- £500m could pay for all homecare to be purchased at a price which providers say is sustainable for them to remain in the business of council-commissioned care;
- An extra £1bn would pay for all residential care nationally to be paid at rates recommended by the provider market now.
- Investment of £1bn could help about 50,000 older and disabled people to stay healthy and at home by investing in a mixture of services including home care support, specialist residential capacity and social work assessments.

Useful Documents

- [ADASS Green Paper Statement](#)
- [ADASS Autumn Short Survey](#)
- [ADASS Budget Survey](#)
- [Distinctive, Valued, Personal](#)

Who we are

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) is a charity and the association aims to further the interests of people in need of social care by promoting high standards of social care services and influencing the development of social care legislation and policy. Our members are current and former directors of adult care or social services and their senior staff. To find out more about ADASS please go to www.adass.org.uk