

HOW TO SORT OUT SOCIAL CARE – ONCE AND FOR ALL

Social care provides care, support and safeguards for all of us. It supports us when we are disabled or older; it supports us to live good lives and to die good deaths.

Over the last decade, social care has had to find £7.7 billion in savings and, as a consequence, there have been dramatic increases in the number of us whose care needs are not being met and more of us providing care for family members.

Successive Governments of all political shades have promised to reform adult social care and to create a sustainable system that is genuinely fit for the twenty first century but have ultimately failed to deliver on these promises.

The new Government has an opportunity to stabilise, rebalance and transform adult social care. Its mandate and significant parliamentary majority mean that it can do something that successive Governments have been unable to do - to ensure that all of us can get care and support when and where we need it.

The new Government can enable and provide three key things:

1. **Certainty about funding** - setting out at the earliest opportunity what money will be available over the course of the whole of the next Parliament to ensure that those of us who need social care get the support we need to live our lives as we want to live them.
2. **Long-term reform** – enabling us to build care and support for the millions of us who need it and create an enabling social care system that is truly fit for the twenty-first century.
3. **A long-term plan for adult social care** – plotting out how social care links with other public services and supports resilient individuals, families and communities.

Certainty about funding across the whole of the parliamentary term will help avoid any further deterioration and give the new Government and Parliament the space to develop and agree the reforms that will be required to craft a twenty first century adult social care system that determines who pays for what and meets all of our needs. In turn, a reformed and sustainable system will require a long-term plan for social care that sets out what is possible and what we can all expect in terms of care and support when we need it.

The three tasks facing the new Government are inevitably interlinked. The reality is that without significant investment and certainty we will see a further deterioration in care and it will be much more difficult to agree long-term reform, and without reform there can be no social care long-term plan.

All of us who access care and support, those of us providing care for family members and those of us who work in adult social care, are looking to the new Government to deliver what their predecessors of all political colours have been unable to do. The new Government has an opportunity to stabilise care. Once it has done so, it can set out its positive and innovative ideas for adult social care and deliver for those of us who rely on social care to enable us to live the lives we want to live, now and in the future. The prize is to sort social care – once and for all, for all of us.