

About this statement

This statement was produced as part of a partnership between ADASS and Think Local, Act Personal (TLAP) and the National Co-Production Advisory Group.

Across a series of discussions people who draw on care and support and people who provide unpaid care to friends and family members came together to explore what “bringing care closer to home” meant for them, drawing on their own experiences, and learning from the existing evidence base around this idea. Members of this group then came together in a series of co-production sessions with people working in adult social care within local authorities in the ADASS membership and with representatives from Regional ADASS organisations to develop a shared understanding of this concept.

This statement was developed based on discussions in those sessions, as a resource for those interested moving care services closer to people’s homes, to help them to root their work in what matters most to people who draw on care and support. It sets out our understanding of care closer to home, why it matters and what needs to happen to deliver good care closer to home.

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What does “care closer to home” mean?

The term “Care closer to home” is used by different people to mean different things.

In recent years it has become a short-hand term for proactive, flexible, and community-led forms of health, and care and support services.

Across both health and social care work is being done to bring care closer to home, including as part of the Government’s plans to create a Neighbourhood Health Service.

Bringing care closer to home is not just about changing *where* we provide support, it is also about *what* support we provide.

Why does bringing care closer to home matter?

The importance of home

Social Care Future's vision for the future of social care states that *"We all want to live in the place we call home, with the people and things we love, in communities where we look out for each other, doing the things that matter to us."*¹

Social care exists to ensure all of us have the support we need to live our lives.

Having a safe and secure home, and feeling part of a community, are important to our identity and our wellbeing. The right care and support can enable us to build and maintain connection, meaning and purpose, helping more of us to stay well, so we need fewer acute and intensive services.

If more of us can get the right care at the right time, in or near our homes, fewer of us will end up in hospitals, assessment and treatment units, or in residential care, where we can be cut off from the things that help us stay well.

Efficient services that help people stay well

Timely, effective, joined-up services that address the things that matter to us, at home or near home, help more of us to live good lives, and to maintain our health and wellbeing.

This kind of support also reduces the need for us to spend time travelling between, or making repeated visits to services, making it easier to carry doing the things that matter to us.

More care closer to home will improve lives and reduce the need for costly services such as hospital stays and residential care.

¹ Social Care Future

Building on what's strong

Building care and support services with local communities, to serve people where they live, means we can offer support that responds to the unique strengths, aspirations and needs of different communities and the people within them. By working across professional and organisational boundaries, with people and communities, we deliver better support, and use our resources more effectively.

Working with people and communities, means we can understand and respond to their needs, reduce the barriers to accessing support – helping to reduce inequity.

What does good care closer to home look like?

The benefits of bringing care closer to home will only be realised if we not only change where we provide care, but also change the care we provide. The [Making It Real](#) “I” and “we” statements set out what good social care looks like, wherever it is provided.

10 key statements from [Making It Real](#) for care closer to home

Living the life I want, staying safe and well

- I can live the life I want and do the things that are important to me as independently as possible.
- I feel safe and am supported to understand and manage any risks.
- I have a place I can call home, not just a ‘bed’ or somewhere that provides me with care.

Having the information I need, when I need it

- I can get information and advice about my health and how I can be as well as possible – physically, mentally and emotionally.
- I know about the activities, social groups, leisure and learning opportunities in my community, as well as health and care services.

Keeping family, friends and connections

- I feel welcome and safe in my local community and can join in community life and activities that are important to me.
- I have a co-produced personal plan that sets out how I can be as active and involved in my community as possible.

My support, my own way

- I am in control of planning my care and support. If I need help with this, people who know and care about me are involved.
- I have care and support that is coordinated and everyone works well together and with me.

Staying in control

- I know what to do and who I can contact when I realise that things might be at risk of going wrong or my health condition may be worsening.

Below we set out some of the key features of good care closer to home, using some of the core domains of Making It Real

Keeping friends, families and connections

A real home is a place of safety, and connection. It's not just a roof over our heads, but also connects us to a community which offers the things we need to live our daily lives and to which we can belong.

Good care closer to home helps us to stay safe and well at home and to build and maintain connections to our communities, including through the development of accessible, and inclusive opportunities for social connection and peer support.

Living the life I want, staying safe and well

Support should be **proactive, flexible, and person-centred**, focusing on the things that matter to us and ensuring we have choice and control over our lives.

Good care closer to home will require investment to develop capacity for person-centred planning and strengths-based approaches, so people can play an active role in planning how to stay well and to live the lives they want. It also requires investment in helping people develop their own skills and capacity to maintain their own health and wellbeing.

Most of us will choose to receive care closer to home if our home is place of safety and connection and if the services available at or near home are high quality and meet our needs.

Staying in control

We can only feel confident and have trust in services that we receive at home, if we are supported to manage risks and know there is back up when things go wrong.

People and communities need to understand their **roles** in bringing care closer to home, and to be supported to play them. Statutory bodies need to be clear about they are meeting their **responsibilities** towards people who receive care at or near home.

My support, my own way

We need care and support services that are responsive to our own unique needs, aspirations and circumstances, and don't leave us trying to make sense of multiple complex systems, and having to repeat the same information to different organisations.

To deliver care closer to home service providers will need to **work across services boundaries** so that people have timely and appropriate access to housing, repairs and adaptations, and accessible opportunities to get involved in their communities, and other services, as well as **high quality health and care and support services**.

Support needs to be tailored to the local community, recognising different needs, aspirations, cultural requirements etc. Working with local people and communities to develop support is the best way to develop the right services for local citizens.

Investment in capacity to co-produce services with communities is vital. Services also need to **share data** across organisations and with people, so that there is a shared understanding who might need support and who is missing out.

Delivering care closer to home will mean working in different ways, **empowering staff** to respond to what people and the data tell them about what their community needs and how best to deliver it, and with the flexibility to respond to changing needs.

Resourcing Care Closer to Home

Care closer to home requires a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary response, where we pool skills and resources to meet the needs of people and communities.

If we get it right, the more we provide care closer to home, the more we will see reductions in the demand for acute, intensive, and long-stay services.

However, to make this shift happen we will need to proactively move resources towards support in the community. As part of this we need increased investment in the unique skills, competencies, and relationships that are held within social care.

Adult social care is designed around a central principle of wellbeing, and a duty to prevent, reduce and delay the use of intensive services. Its value base and expertise are therefore central to achieving the aims of bringing care closer to home.

Key assets of social care include:

- A wide diversity of care workers and care providers already working in people's homes and in communities up and down the country
- Occupational therapists working to support people to stay safe and live well at home
- Registered social workers with expertise in person-centred, strengths-based working
- Organisations who are expert in working in co-production with people and communities
- Strong existing relationships across local communities including between social care leaders and community organisations in the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector

What needs to happen to deliver care closer to home?

To ensure that more people can access care closer to home that meets their needs and aspirations, we need to:

- Work with people and communities to understand what matters to them, what gets in the way of their lives and what support they need to achieve their aspirations
- Develop a shared understanding of what good looks like for care and support in each local community.
- Use data to understand who is able to access services and support, whether these meet their needs, and who is missing out
- Bring together a range of services and support providers with people in local communities to work together to develop solutions that work for them
- Use market shaping and commissioning, planning and other powers held across local and strategic authorities to shape the services and support available across local communities.
- Draw on the expertise of different professionals and disciplines to respond creatively to the challenges people and communities face
- Empower staff to work differently – enabling cross-organisational and multi-disciplinary working, and allowing staff to be creative, relational and flexible
- Use resources creatively and flexibly to achieve good outcomes for people