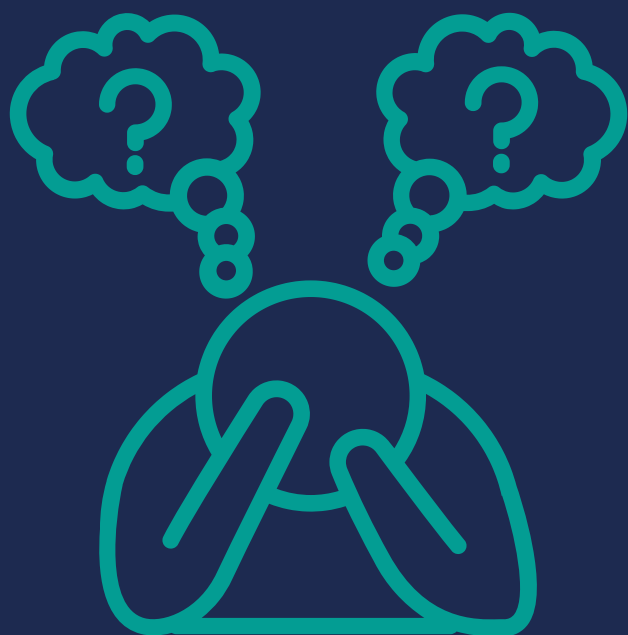


400,000+

people are waiting for support.

More than 400,000 people are waiting for an assessment, care and support, a review or a direct payment.



Every person waiting could have an unmet need that affects their health, wellbeing and independence.



Mental health needs are **rising**.

86%

of Directors of Adult
Social Services report an
increase in mental health
needs in their local area.

77%

have seen an increase
in younger adults
presenting with
mental health needs.

More people with complex health needs are turning to councils.

75%

of Directors report an increase in people who previously would have been eligible for **NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC)** now seeking support from their local council instead.

People should experience **one joined-up health and care system** – not be caught between organisations and disputes about who should pay.



Prevention is being squeezed.

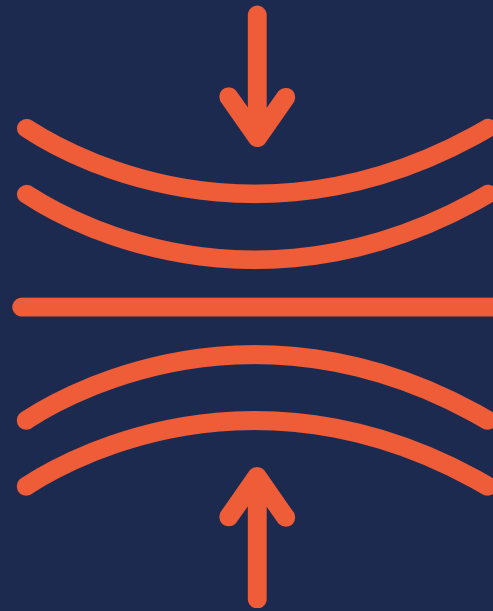
£715 million

was overspent on adult social care in 2025/26.



When councils are forced to spend more responding to immediate need, there is less funding available to invest in prevention – which would help people stay well and independent in their homes, and connected to their communities.

Councils are
under growing
pressure.



80%

of councils overspent
their adult social care
budgets in 2025/26.

Rising need and increasingly
complex care continue to
outstrip available funding.



400,000

Behind every number is a person.

Every statistic in this report represents someone waiting for support, a family navigating uncertainty, or an unpaid carer taking on more responsibility.



Adult social care needs **reform and sustainable, long-term investment** so people can get the support they need, when they need it.