

## **Care and Support Alliance Briefing on Adult Social Care in England Briefing for Opposition Day Debate 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**About the Care & Support Alliance:** The Care & Support Alliance was established in July 2009. We represent over 80 of Britain's leading charities – including for example Age UK, the Royal British Legion, MS Society, Leonard Cheshire, Carers UK and the National Autistic Society - campaigning for a properly funded care system alongside the millions of older people, disabled people and their carers who deserve decent care. For a list of our members and other information <http://careandsupportalliance.com/>.

### **1. Background**

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, an opposition day debate is scheduled on social care. The full motion for the debate has not yet been made available. There are two opposition day debates scheduled for the afternoon of 17<sup>th</sup>, after PMQs. The one on social care is the second of those two debates.

### **2. Overview**

Social care support is essential in meeting the needs of disabled and older people and their families to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. As well as relying on care and support for help with everyday tasks, like washing, dressing and eating, social care plays a vital role in supporting recipients and their carers to move into, or stay in, employment, and in preventing avoidable expenditure particularly on health service.

Yet the current system is facing serious challenges as more and more people need care, but chronic underfunding of the system means that fewer and fewer people receive it.

We welcome the Government's commitment to publish a Green Paper to start addressing the challenges in the system, but it is essential that it isn't used as a means to kick the issue into the long grass. In the past 20 years we've had 12 separate consultations and reforms looking at the system. This Government must tackle the issue once and for all. However, while the Green Paper is set to identify longer term solutions for social care, there is a significant shortfall in funding now which needs to be addressed. Cuts between 2010 and 2017 now total 49% and a £2.5 billion funding gap is estimated by 2019/20<sup>1</sup>.

Indeed, research by ADASS has shown that only 34% of Adult Social Care Directors are fully confident that their budgets would be sufficient to meet all statutory duties in 2018/2019, while in succeeding years confidence is even lower<sup>2</sup>. These figures show how worryingly unsustainable the current system is.

The Government recently pledged £240m to ensure that people who need care do not stay longer than necessary in hospital this winter. While this investment is welcome it is only a partial stop-gap that does not meet the £2.5 billion that is needed. It also only focuses on one part of the system – getting people out of hospital. While this is important, social care is much more than that.

We need the Government to make sure that:

- Immediate investment is made to avoid market collapse and keep the system afloat
- The Green Paper is not used as an excuse to kick the issue into the long grass and instead leads to a sustainable system in the long term for all those who need care – older people, disabled people and their carers

### **3. Voices from the Social Care Crisis**

<sup>1</sup> Kings Fund 2017 budget briefing <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/autumn-budget-2017>

<sup>2</sup> ADASS, ADASS Budget Survey, 2018

We recently published a report, *Voices from the Social Care Crisis*, based on a survey we conducted of nearly 4,000 people with social care needs.<sup>3</sup>

Our survey found that unmet need is widespread in the system, and this is having a significant, negative impact:

- 1 in 5 went without meals due to a lack of care and support.
- 1 in 4 said they had struggled without basic support including getting out of bed in the morning, getting dressed or going to the toilet.
- 1 in 5 felt unsafe moving around their home and over 1 in 3 can't leave it. This is a too common consequence of not being able to afford care, or of not having access to the right care.
- Over 1 in 3 felt lonely and isolated because of a lack of care and support. Because people aren't getting the help they need, their independence suffers.

People told us:

*"I haven't washed for over two months. My bedroom floor has only been vacuumed once in three years. My sheets have not been changed in about six months and my pajamas haven't been changed this year. My care workers don't have time for cleaning, washing or changing me"*

*"When I was caring for my mother at home getting respite care was very hard – in fact for a long time I didn't know I was entitled. It's a lottery as to whether social services give you the information you need about what you are entitled to as a carer"*

*"I've become a burden to my family, lost many friends and just can't be the husband and partner I would like to be. It's not just me that suffers, but all the family"*

### **The impact on the NHS**

Our survey also highlighted the negative impact of unmet care and support needs on the NHS:

- Over 1 in 3 people have seen their health deteriorate as a result of not getting the social care they needed.
- 1 in 6 have missed crucial medical appointments because changes to care services resulting from local authority cuts mean people cannot get to their hospital appointments.
- 1 in 4 people needed hospital treatment and 1 in 8 said they've been delayed in leaving hospital because of not getting the care they need.

### **The impact on wider society**

Finally, our findings also shed light on the impact the current social care system is having on society as whole.

- Over 1 in 5 people told us they have been unable to work because of a lack of care and support, meaning many have had to reduce their work hours. It is backed by evidence that shows people with a disability are more than twice as likely to be unemployed as non-disabled people.
- Nearly 1 in 2 told us they rely more on family and friends. We know that too often, unpaid carers are filling the gap in care provision. They are already providing £132bn worth of care a year alone<sup>4</sup>, and recent research found that there are 500,000 more carers than in 2005.<sup>5</sup>

## **4. What the CSA wants to see in the Green Paper**

Our 80 organisations have collectively agreed 7 key tests for a Green Paper that we think will address the issues in the care system.

To put social care on a sustainable footing now and to develop a long-term solution for social care funding the CSA would like to see:

- ✓ The investment of short-term funding required to keep the social care system afloat until long-term reforms are implemented

<sup>3</sup> Between January and March 2018, the CSA ran a survey on the experiences of people accessing care and support from the social care system. 3915 older people, disabled people and unpaid carers with self-identified care and support needs took part in the survey. There was a broad range of respondents from a wide range of ages, locations and financial backgrounds.

<sup>4</sup> Carers UK, Valuing Carers, 2015

<sup>5</sup> Social Market Foundation, Caring for Carers, 2018

- ✓ A sustainable long-term funding solution that shares the costs of social care fairly across society and delivers an improved system.
- ✓ A commitment to putting an end to unmet need for all (regardless of age); ensuring better provision of lower level care and support, as well as preventative care.
- ✓ Improving the quality of care and enabling the provision of person-centred care for all people, regardless of their age, which is underpinned by a sustainable workforce and technology.
- ✓ A system that works for everyone who needs care, including working-age adults, older people and carers of all ages.
- ✓ Making social care more affordable and protecting working-age adults, older people and carers from high costs they cannot predict.
- ✓ A long-term plan to put the care market on a sustainable footing.

**Suggested questions to raise:**

- Will the Government use commit to short term investment in social care in the budget to keep the system afloat, ahead of the longer term decisions on future funding to be made as part of the Green Paper process?
- When will the Government publish the Green Paper on social care?
- The Government published, its Loneliness Strategy this week. What assessment have they made on the impact of a lack of care on loneliness among those who are unable to access the care they need?
- What assessment has the Government made of the impact that a lack of social care has had on the ability of working disabled people to work and contribute to the economy?