

October 2017

Doing Social Care Differently - Briefing

Key points

People with disabilities and their families must drive the reform of social care, they know best what will work for them and how services should be designed.

Social care must look at what people want to get out of life, their aspirations and goals. It is not just about meeting people's basic care needs.

People don't live in silos - social care must recognise this and include health, housing, education, employment and social inclusion.

Doing Social Care Differently

There is no doubt that funding for social care is a significant issue confronting the sector, but finding solutions to social care also requires a shift in focus to include and empower people who use social care and their families.

It is important that the forthcoming green paper on social care does not overlook the working aged disabled adults who use social care. This includes the 129,000 people with a learning disability receiving local authority support, the 700,000 more who receive other forms of support such as an annual health check or disability benefit, and their families.

Solutions to social care must be steered by the people who use it and their voice should be at the centre of policy making. Services are best designed when they are genuinely co-produced by people with lived experience.

The crisis in social care creates an opportunity for genuine reform and innovative thinking to create a system that is led by and works for disabled people and their families.

Learning from the Australian Example

The [Every Australian Counts](#) campaign brought together people with disabilities, their families and professionals to call for a more personalised social care system.

They did this by raising awareness of the value of social care for everyone and shifting attitudes in Australia and encouraging a cross-party solution. This approach put people with disabilities and their families at the centre of reform.

The forthcoming green paper on social care must take a similar approach;

- A whole life approach to people's care
- Personalised funding and services to meet peoples goals and aspirations, not just their needs, by putting decisions in the hands of people and their families



Learning Disability England



- Support for anyone and everyone with a disability, whether it is a lifelong condition or one arising later in life, built on the principle that every citizen should be able to lead a fulfilling life
- Include prevention and enable low level supports that allow disabled people and families to live fulfilling lives in their communities
- Seek agreement across political parties for a long term, sustainable solution so that those who use social care are not at the whim of changes in government.

Government must work with people with disabilities and their families to decide on solutions to social care and it must look beyond funding to the value of social care to not only those who use it, but to everyone.