



1 December 2021

Dear colleagues,

Publication of People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform White Paper

I am very pleased to write to you today to share [People at the Heart of Care](#), our adult social care reform white paper. My statement was delivered at lunchtime today in the House of Commons and a link will be circulated shortly.

On 7 September the Prime Minister set out long overdue reforms to how people will pay for their care, but we know this is not the only challenge that needs to be addressed. *People at the Heart of Care* builds on that September announcement and is our next, bold step on the journey to create an adult social care system that is fit for the future. The white paper sets out an ambitious long-term vision for how we will transform care and support, and presents three clear objectives:

1. People have choice, control, and support to live independent lives.
2. People can access outstanding quality and tailored care and support.
3. People find adult social care fair and accessible.

Specific measures announced today include:

- **At least £500 million so the social care workforce** have the right training and qualifications, and feel better recognised and valued for their skills and commitment. This money will also fund initiatives to provide wellbeing and mental health support and to improve access to occupational health.
- **At least £150 million of additional funding to drive greater adoption of technology and achieve widespread digitisation** across social care. Digital tools and technology can support independent living and improve the quality of care.
- **At least £300 million to integrate housing into local health and care strategies**, with a focus on increasing the range of new supported housing options available. This will provide choice of alternative housing and support options.
- **A new practical support service to make minor repairs and changes in people's homes** to help people remain independent and safe in their home. This is alongside increasing the upper limit of the Disabilities Facilities Grant for home adaptations such as stairlifts, wetrooms and home technologies.

- **More than £70 million to increase the support offer across adult social care to improve the delivery of care and support services**, including assisting local authorities to better plan and develop the support and care options available.
- **£30 million to help local areas innovate around the support and care they provide in new and different ways**, providing more options that suit peoples' needs and individual circumstances.
- **Up to £25 million to work with the sector to kick start a change in the services provided to support unpaid carers.**
- **A new national website** to explain the upcoming changes and **at least £5 million to pilot new ways** to help people understand and access the care and support available.

These measures will not solve every problem that exists in the sector, but they are a significant step in moving us towards a new vision for social care that the whole of government is committed to.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 200+ organisations, and many more individuals, who contributed their insights and experiences to shape this publication. We will continue to work closely with the sector, with unpaid carers and with people who draw on care and support, to make our vision for reform a reality for all.

I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Very best wishes,

GILLIAN KEEGAN MP

Minister of State for Care and Mental Health