



Chartered
Institute of
Housing

What you need to know about people at the heart of care: adult social care reform white paper

What you need to know about people at the heart of care: adult social care reform white paper



Chartered
Institute of
Housing

The government has published its long awaited white paper on adult social care, including its measures to reform funding for and access to social care. [People at the heart of care: adult social care reform white paper](#) sets out a vision for adult social care and funding commitments for three years, to deliver reforms intended to shape the social care system and drive further integration at the local level, incorporating housing with health and care.

The white paper builds on the principles and foundation of the Care Act 2014, and is the start of a process of development to achieve a ten-year vision, with further work to follow, including a white paper on integration, a strategy to support people with dementia, and new guidance on Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs). Further consultations are also to come in 2022, notably on the detail relating to proposals for changes to DFGs.

The ten-year vision aims to place people and outcomes at the centre of reform with a focus on:

- **Supporting people to have choice, control, and independence** - Councils, health bodies, care providers, housing and wider community and voluntary groups will work together to ensure that there are services that support prevention, and early intervention before crisis; that maintain people living at home or in their community, with appropriate adaptations and technology within their home to support this; providing more alternative housing options that can better support people and increasing awareness of these, so that people can plan appropriately and take up those options in timely way.
- **Providing outstanding quality of care** - High quality standards of care delivered by a qualified and professionalised workforce; shaped by timely data and evidence of best practice; joined up with other services including housing, homelessness, and community support.
- **Ensuring care is provided in a fair and accessible way** - Clear and transparent information and advice on options available for services and costs, and rights to care and support; introduction of care cap of £86,000 and a more generous means test; transparency over care costs.

The role of the home – providing the right care, in the right place at the right time (chapter 4)

Housing takes a central place in the delivery of the government's ambition for care and support services. It aims to 'make every decision about care a decision about housing' (p32); ensuring that people have choices over their housing arrangements, whether that is adaptations, technology and care delivered within their existing homes, or alternative supported housing.

By increasing the use of practical digital technology in homes to support people who draw on care and equipping the care workforce to use it more fully, it aims also to improve the digital infrastructure and data to support local areas to deliver care and support effectively. Local areas, in planning for and delivering services should think about housing and community in its responses.

Funding commitments to support this:

- £300 million at least over three years to deliver the strategic commitment to connect housing with health and care, and drive development of new supported housing.
- Continued investment in the Care and Support Specialised Housing (CASSH) fund - £210 million available for 2022/23-2024/25.
- Investment in a new minor repairs service to help people (although no definite funding is specified).

- £150 million at least for digitalisation, increasing the use of care technology to keep people living safely and independently
- An Innovative Models of Care programme will be launched with funding of £30 million to increase capacity and build new ways of working into mainstream services.

Enabling this requires strong local leadership and partnerships across health, adult social care and housing commissioners and providers, alongside homelessness services, planning and voluntary and community organisations, working to bring health, care and housing together in a coherent system. Integrated Care Partnerships will have a central role, and the future integration white paper will set out more on the role for these and Integrated Care Boards.

The additional investment is intended to provide incentives for housing providers to invest in more supported housing, and integrate housing within health and care strategies locally. As well as new supported housing local areas will be able to modernise and improve existing supported housing schemes.

The funding for innovation will shape how services can be delivered alongside housing, and increase expenditure on services for those in supported housing.

The white paper includes a commitment for government to work with the private and social housing sector, to identify action to stimulate specialist housing provision that delivers for consumers and providers across the country.

Mainstream and existing housing

Although mainly focused on increasing the supply of new supported housing, the white paper acknowledges that most people will still live in mainstream housing, but further action on this is still to come including:

- the government's response to its consultation on improving the accessibility of new homes
- new guidance on DFGs
- consultations on increasing the limit to grant for DFGs; a review of the way funding is allocated to local authorities; how to align with the means test for funding reforms.



Information and advice

To support people to know their rights and to plan for later life, the paper commits to developing the role of information and advice, with a national website to inform people of the changes being made to funding for care services and £5 million over three years for local organisations to pilot and evaluate new ways of providing personalised advice, building on existing local arrangements.

Initial CIH response

CIH has long argued that decent and accessible housing in the right place is fundamental to supporting people's health and wellbeing.

So, it is positive to see such a central focus on housing in the white paper, both in terms of reducing dependence and greater focus on health, wellbeing, and safety – 'making every decision about care a decision about housing'.

We are pleased to see recognition of and funding for work at local authority/ integrated care system level for housing to be embedded in health and care strategies, and the ongoing funding for more supported housing. Funding for innovative models of care and increased expenditure locally on services for people in supported housing may potentially help in a small measure to address the loss of significant funding for support that has occurred over many years; this gap remains a major issue for providers that CIH has raised in its budget submissions.

We welcome the government's commitment to work with housing providers to increase the supply of quality supported housing.

We have also called for independent information and advice that includes housing options and housing related services to raise awareness amongst individuals/ households about their options for finding solutions for their current and future care and support needs. This needs to be widely and easily available so that people can plan appropriately, so we are pleased to see the commitment to developing these services locally as well.

CIH, as part of the Housing Made for Everyone ([HoME](#)) coalition, believes that we urgently need to improve the accessibility of all new homes, not only supported housing, so we would have liked to have seen a positive statement on that in the white paper.

We look forward to further consultation on the detail of DFGs that the paper sets out. Whilst we welcome the ongoing funding commitment to DFGs, in light of possible increased limits on the level for a DFG (which is positive) this, coupled with increasing material and build costs, risks limiting the numbers that can access adaptations and we would like to see investment in this vital service increased, to ensure that more people are able to make their existing homes safe, for continued independent living and / or to give/ receive care safely.

(See also our [press statement](#))

