

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

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Overview:

On 7 September 2021 the Prime Minister set out reforms for how people in England will pay for their social care and announced £5.4 billion over 3 years will be solely for adult social care reform. This month, the Government have published the Social Care White Paper "People at the Heart of Care".

The White Paper itself talks about "**making every decision about care a decision about housing**".¹ The importance of housing and delivering the right housing in the right place is a key theme within the White Paper, and the key points to takeaway include:

- A pledge to invest at least £300 million over the next 3 years to **embed the strategic commitment in all local places to connect housing with health and care and drive the stock of new supported housing**. This will provide choice of alternative housing and support options.
- A commitment to invest at least £150 million of additional funding to drive greater adoption of technology and achieve widespread digitisation across the sector; and unlock the potential of caretech innovation that **enables preventative care and independent living**.²
- There is **not enough supported housing to meet current or future demand, and not enough are being built to close that gap**.³
- Housing that meets future care and support needs must be delivered within a complex wider housing market.⁴
- **The market needs to grow for private payers**, and as such, an important priority for the government in achieving their 10-year vision is to **grow investment in both grant-funded and private supported housing to incentivise their supply**.⁵

To summarise, from a housing and planning perspective,

the White Paper **supports the growth of a thriving older peoples' housing sector, that builds enough homes to match growing need**, gives certainty to developers and investors, and empowers consumers with **choice from a diverse range of housing options to suit their needs**.⁶

The Vision:

The vision for adult social care puts people at its heart and revolves around three objectives, people have choice, control, and support to live independent lives; people can access outstanding quality and tailored care and support and people find adult social care fair and accessible.

Aims:

In order to achieve the 10-year vision, the White Paper sets out a range of policies, those relevant include the following:

- 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.
- 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.
- £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.
- 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.

¹ Page 32, People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform White Paper

² Page 33, People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform White Paper

³ PSSRU, Wittenberg, R, Hu, Bo, 'Projected demand for supported housing in Great Britain 2015 to 2030', published in March 2017

⁴ Page 35, People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform White Paper

⁵ Page 36, People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform White Paper

⁶ Page 40, People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform White Paper

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Housing Options

Within the White Paper it emphasises the need to expand the choice of housing options, regarding social care, stating that, *“today, too many people with care and support needs live in homes that do not provide a safe or stable environment.”* For some peoples’ care and support needs mean that specialised housing is likely to offer the best option for them. Projected demand for supported housing in England is estimated to increase by 125,000 by 2030⁷, and the Government want to provide more people with this option.

Another option includes the ability to allow people to adapt their homes to meet their needs where necessary, because *“around 1.9 million households in England are home to someone with a health condition that requires an adaptation to their home to support everyday tasks like washing and using the bathroom, cooking, or getting out and about easily. In 2019–20, 53% of households requiring an adaptation do not have all the adaptations needed, a rise from 45% in 2014–15.”*⁸

Housing options, including specialised housing and ability to adapt existing homes, is therefore considered to be a key action to help deliver the visions of the Government.

Housing in the Right Place, at the Right Time

Chapter 4: housing in the right place, at the right time, emphasises that to influence social care, the housing market needs to be actively shaped, including housing providers investing in new and innovative models of provisions. To encourage this, the Government has committed to investing,

*“at least £300 million for the period 2022-23 to 2025-26 to deliver the vision set out in the white paper, by integrating housing into local health and care strategies, with a focus on boosting the supply of specialist housing and funding improved services for residents. This in turn will drive increased confidence in the social supported housing market, stimulating a positive cycle of further innovation and private investment”*⁹

To assist this, over the next 3 years the Government **intend to increase the supply of supported housing by**

supporting providers across the housing sector to develop more options for people in the private housing market¹⁰. To achieve this, the Government want to,

- “Help boost supply across the country and ensure we build a diverse range of specialist housing that matches local need and gives consumers greater choice to find the right housing solution for them.
- Continue to work across government to explore options to support and incentivise market growth, including ways to give developers greater clarity, investors more confidence and provide consumers with the necessary protections.
- Build on the “place-making” impacts of our new investment in housing as it drives the embedding of holistic strategies across housing delivery, local planning and spatial development.¹¹”

The Government also seek to support local places to create lifetime neighbourhoods, by investing in housing to ensure neighbourhoods are accessible and inclusive and have positive impacts on residents’ health and wellbeing.

⁷ Page 30, People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform White Paper

⁸ Page 30, People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform White Paper

⁹ Page 35, People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform White Paper

¹⁰ Page 39, People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform White Paper

¹¹ Page 39, People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform White Paper