

Lords Oral Question - to ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the new Health and Social Care Levy will be allocated to the provision of social care.

For more information, please contact Alex Osborne at alex.osborne@alzheimers.org.uk.

This briefing includes:

1. Suggested Questions
2. Background
3. Social Care Reform - #CuretheCareSystem
4. Stabilise, Energise, Realise: A long term plan for social care

1. Suggested Interventions

- Can my noble friend clarify whether the Government intends to rebalance the amount of funding allocated to social care compared to the NHS through the Health and Social Care Levy over time, and if so, when we can expect this rebalancing to commence?
- Given that only £5.4bn of the £36bn that is to be raised via the 1.25% NIC Levy will initially be allocated to social care, can my noble friend confirm how the Government intends to ensure that social care is on an equal footing with the NHS throughout the reform process?
- What conversations has my noble friend had with Ministerial colleagues on the need for a more immediate injection of funding into social care to stabilise the system, enabling it to maintain current standards and placing it on more secure footing ahead of the introduction of the new cap and wider reform?
- Can my noble friend confirm when exactly the Government intends to bring forward its White Papers on social care reform and integration?
- Ahead of the Government's planned White Paper for reforming adult social care, can my noble friend explain how the Government will ensure that stakeholders, including those who draw on care and who provide care services, are meaningfully involved in its co-production?

2. Background

There are an estimated 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK, with this number set to rise to nearly 1.6 million by 2040.¹ Dementia is a progressive, long-term health condition with huge care costs attached. **It has been estimated that 70% of care home residents and over 60% of home care recipients are people with dementia.**²

People with dementia have been worst-hit by the pandemic, accounting for over a quarter of all Covid-19 deaths.³ Their experiences, as well as the experiences of exhausted unpaid carers, have highlighted even further the urgent need for social care reform in the UK. **While Alzheimer's Society welcomes the Health and Social Care Levy as a first step in the reform process, reform of how social care is funded is just the first step in reforming the system as a whole.**

The Government has since announced that it will bring forward two White Papers on integration and social care reform which will begin to address questions about access to, and quality of care. While this is also welcome news, **we now need further clarity on when these White Papers will be introduced, and how the Government intends on meaningfully involving stakeholders in the co-production of these papers.**

¹ Wittenberg, Raphael et al. Projections of older people with dementia and costs of dementia care in the United Kingdom, 2019-2040. 2019. Care Policy and Evaluation Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science. https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-11/cpec_report_november_2019.pdf.

² Alzheimer's Society. Dementia UK: Update. 2014.

https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/migrate/downloads/dementia_uk_update.pdf; <https://www.ukhca.co.uk/pdfs/UKHCADementiaStrategy201202final.pdf>.

³ González, Livingston et al. Impact and mortality of COVID-19 on people living with dementia: cross-country report. 2020. International Long Term Care Policy Network, Care Policy and Evaluation Centre, London School of Economics. <https://itccovid.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/International-report-on-the-impact-of-COVID-19-on-people-living-with-dementia-19-August-2020.pdf>.

3. Social Care Reform - #CuretheCareSystem

The Prime Minister announced the Health and Social Care Levy during a speech on 7 September. **The 1.25% NIC levy will come into effect from April 2022 and will raise £36bn over the next three years, of which £5.4bn will go to social care.** It was also clarified that people with assets worth less than £20k will not have to pay for social care, and that those with assets between £20k and £100k will be eligible for at least some means-tested support; that self-funders will be able to ask local authorities to arrange their care to get better value; and that **£500m will be provided for social care workforce development. From October 2023, nobody starting care in England will pay more than £86k for this care over their lifetime.**

While this provides a significant platform for change, **reform to how social care is funded is a vehicle for further social care reform, rather than a solution in and of itself.** In order to ensure that people with dementia can access the best quality of care and live with meaning, purpose, and connection, **the Government's White Papers must provide a detailed long-term plan for reform, coupled with a clear timetable for delivery.** This can only happen if stakeholders, including those who provide and draw on care, are properly included in the production of the White Papers.

In response to the specific figures provided by Government, Alzheimer's Society believes that:

- **The distribution of the £36bn that is to be raised through the NIC Levy must be rebalanced to ensure that social care is treated on an equal footing with the NHS,** otherwise it will be impossible to deliver meaningful social care reform for all those who need it.
- **A cap on care costs needs to be considerably lower than £86k to make a difference to more than a just handful of people living with dementia paying very high costs.** While a cap to end catastrophic care costs is welcome, the proposed £86k is less generous than original proposals made by Andrew Dilnot.
- At face value, £500m seems a very small amount to dedicate to the social care workforce given its size. Clarity is needed as to whether the Government's 'plan to support professional development and the long-term wellbeing of the workforce' will be accompanied by additional associated funding and **a long-term workforce plan for the sector.**

4. Stabilise, Energise, Realise: A long term plan for social care

Just days before the Prime Minister's announcement, Alzheimer's Society launched a new report, [*Stabilise, Energise, Realise: A long term plan for social care*](#). Building on our #CureTheCareSystem campaign, which sees a better, brighter future for social care, **this report offers a pragmatic, stepped plan on how to move forward with social care reform.**

Stabilise, Energise, Realise sets out a three-part programme of change that any Government long term social care plan should deliver. This includes the need to **stabilise the system following the devastating impact of the coronavirus pandemic, energising the system through new levers and assets** such as technology, housing and personalisation, **towards a final phase of full transformation by the end of the decade** that will see a wide range of benefits realised.

The report is backed up by 30 recommendations across seven key areas: funding, workforce, public engagement and information, quality, integration, carers, and new technology and investment. It was written following a series of roundtables with experts across social care and interviews with people affected by dementia, with a particular focus on **delivering more personalised care that offers choice and control and that's tailored to people's wants and needs.**