

Social Care

Central Government

Local systems



Principles of adult social care

'Don't we all want to live in the place we call home with the people and things that we love, in communities where we look out for one another, doing the things that matter?'

Social Care Future – vision for social care



Social care is there to meet the needs of a wide range of people (older adults, physical and sensory disabilities, learning disability, autism, mental health, substance use) across a broad range of settings and service models. Social care provides a mix of practical and personal care support, but also includes a focus on enabling and empowering people to identify what is important in terms of quality of life, to develop their skills and confidence and to make their own choices.

2020/21

Adult social care is a growing sector that, in 2020/21, comprised around 17,700 organisations across 39,000 care-providing locations, with a workforce of around 1.67 million jobs. Social care organisations include large national employers, large charities, local authority adult social services departments and small independent care services.

Whilst NHS services are free for everyone at the point of use, adult social care funding is based on an eligibility criteria via local authority budgets. For people ineligible for publicly funded social care, there is the option to purchase care privately.

2035

If the adult social care workforce grows proportionally to the projected number of people aged 65 and over in the population then the number of adult social care jobs will increase by 29% (480,000 jobs) to around 2.16 million jobs by 2035.

Adult social care services in England are regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The CQC makes sure that health and social care services provide people with safe, effective, compassionate, high-quality care.