



Shaping the Future of Care Together

The Big Care Debate:

YOUR chance to comment on the government's proposals
to radically reform care and support services

Under plans set out by Health Secretary Andy Burnham in the Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together" everyone in England who has **care** needs will have access to a National Care Service that is fair, simple and affordable.

Why does the current system need to change?

Huge pressures are being put on existing services. More people need **care** because they are living longer – in 1948 life expectancy was 66 while today it is 78. For the first time there are more people over the age of 65 than there are under 18. Also, many people need **care** and support for other reasons e.g. they may have been born with a disability or become disabled due to an accident or illness.

The current system is also unfair because **care** can cost tens of thousands of pounds, which for some may mean some people having to sell their home to pay for the support they need. The National Care Service will create a level playing field and end the postcode lottery of **care** services.

In the proposals outlined in the Green Paper everyone in England who needs care will be guaranteed:

- § **Prevention services** – the right to stay independent and well for as long as possible
- § **National assessment** – **care** needs will be assessed and paid for in the same way across the country
- § **Joined up services** – all services that provide **care** and support will work smoothly together
- § **Information and advice** – the **care** system will be easy to understand so that what is available is clear
- § **Personalised care and support** – services will be based on personal circumstances and needs
- § **Fair funding** – public money will be spent wisely and everyone will get some help in meeting the high cost of **care** needs

Act now: the deadline for comments is 13 November 2009

[more information overleaf.....](#)

There are three proposals for funding a National Care Service:


- ✓ **Partnership** - the responsibility for paying for care would be shared between the government and the individual who has care needs. The government will provide up to a third of the cost of care – more for people with low income. Today's 65 year olds will need basic care costing £30,000 but the costs will be considerably higher for more complex care needs
- ✓ **Insurance** – this is similar to partnership but with the government helping people to prepare to meet the contribution to the costs of care that they would have to pay for themselves through an insurance-based approach.
- ✓ **Comprehensive** – everyone who could afford it would pay into state insurance scheme so that they will be able to make a claim to meet the costs if they ever need care and support

Note: the figures outlined are for the cost of basic care only. The cost of receiving specialist care for more complex care needs will be extra. The costs quoted do not include accommodation and food as these will have to be paid for separately.

Get involved in the Big Care Debate by:

ü **going online** to answer the full survey
and leave your comments on: <http://careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/questionnaire/>

ü **completing the attached leaflet** (mini survey)
which poses three specific consultation questions (if using a photocopy please seal the edges before posting – or enclose in an envelope and send to the FREEPOST – no stamp is needed)

ü **telling**  **what you think about the proposals.**
Simply call us on **01952 614180** on Wednesdays and Thursdays during office hours and we'll fill in the survey on your behalf.

Details of a Big Care Debate event that your local involvement network is planning with other local partners in October will shortly be posted on our website www.telfordandwrekinlink.org.uk.

Please let us know if you want to get involved in this or other activities and we'll send you details about how you (individuals, community groups or voluntary organisations) can influence local health and social care services.

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