

Housing LIN Policy Briefing

DH White Paper - Building the National Care Service

1. Introduction

Further to the Green Paper on the future of care and support in England, the government published its White Paper, '**Building the National Care Service**' on 30th March 2010. It seeks to establish a National Care Service and places significant focus on greater integration, partnership working and collaboration within health and social care economies.

There are also several references in the White Paper to the critical links between health, housing and social care and this briefing looks at those links.

2. Background

The National Care Service will be underpinned by six principles which aim to be the foundations of the service. These are:

The National Care Service will

1. Be universal – supporting all adults with an eligible care need within a framework of national entitlements.
2. Be free when people need it – based on need, rather than the ability to pay.
3. Work in partnership – with all the different organisations and people who support individuals with care and support needs day-to-day.
4. Ensure choice and control – valuing all, treating everyone with dignity, respecting an individual's human rights, personal to every individual's needs and putting people in charge of their lives.
5. Support family, carers and community life – recognising the vital contribution families, carers and communities play in enabling people to realise their potential.
6. Be accessible – easy to understand, helping people make the right choices.

3. What people can expect from the National Care Service

There are six pillars of the National Care Service setting out what people can expect from the service:

1. Prevention and wellbeing services to keep people independent
2. Nationally consistent eligibility criteria for social care enshrined in law
3. A joined-up assessment
4. Information and advice about care and support
5. Personalised care and support, through a personal budget
6. Fair funding, with a collective responsibility for paying for care and support

It includes a number of options for funding care if and when people need it, based on the premise that no-one should have to lose their home or savings in order to access care. The options set out in the Green paper remain and it is proposed that a Commission be set up to help reach a consensus on the funding arrangements. The commission will look at funding care and support. Individuals in residential care will be expected to pay their accommodation costs.

The timetable for implementation of the National Care Service and associated proposals is:

- The Personal Care at Home Bill will provide free care for people with high care needs alongside re-ablement services to support people to regain their independent and confidence. It is due into effect in 2011
- From 2014 anyone in residential care will receive the care service free after two years residence
- Implementation of the National Care Service in 2015

The starting point for the service is to make it available to everyone and for its components to be accessible to people before the need care and support and at points along the care journey. The three key features are:

- Information and advice, including housing options via a national online information portal
- Nationally consistent eligibility and joined up assessment
- Personalised and preventative care packages – the White Paper includes a reference to evidence that well adapted housing can be effective in preventing falls, improving mental and physical well-being of older and disabled people and reducing the pain and physical ill-health of carers¹

¹ Better outcomes, lower costs – Implications for health and social care budgets of investment in housing adaptations, improvements and equipment: a review of the evidence. Office of Disability Issues & University of Bristol 2007

4. The role of housing

Housing is mentioned throughout the document, including:

- in the definition of care and support which includes housing related support services, technology, adaptations and forms of housing that promote independence such as extra care
- joint working across agencies including housing for example on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA)
- recognising the important of housing in relation to early intervention and prevention

Work already underway to deliver on the principles outlined in the White Paper includes:

- Universal services – Local authorities will take the lead in working with partners to deliver universal services available to everyone in their communities.
- Housing – the importance of support for people at home, alongside technology and adaptations together with new housing models such as extra care. Recognising that as society ages people's housing needs will change and new options will need to be developed to provide choice so that older people can live independent and safely in places that meet their needs.
- Carers - Building on the carers' strategy, the vision is for a National Care Service that provides greater personalisation of care, improves the quality of formal care, and works with employers and Job centre Plus to support carers.

Specific examples in support of the role of housing and housing and support include:

- Flexicare Housing Hertfordshire – Chapter 5 Delivering the Vision. The county council and its partners, including PCTs, have developed an ambitious programme aiming to preserve people's independence. The programme offers a range of flexible housing options, taking account of people's changing needs and promoting a balanced community of people with a wide range of care and support needs. Housing options include making best use of existing stock by re-modelling under-used sheltered housing schemes. People live in their own apartments, with communal areas and facilities to promote a sense of community. Care staff are based on-site 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- The extra care capacity building grant – Chapter 5 Delivering the vision. This is a grant of £20,000 for all local authorities with adult social care responsibilities and set out in the 2010 Local Authority Circular (LAC) on the Social Care Reform Grants. The money should be used to:
 - Produce, or review, their extra care housing strategy with the aim of enhancing the housing with care for older people, including people with dementia
 - Invest in capital projects that achieve demonstrable improvements in extra care environments that further facilitate independent living, such as installing telecare, aids and adaptations, and/or undertaking scheme remodeling or refurbishment
 - Work collaboratively regionally or pan-regionally to develop extra care housing

- Encouraging local authorities and PCT's to apply the learning from the Total Place Pilots – Chapter 6 Embedding quality in the national care service. The pilots brought together a 'whole area' approach bringing together a range of public sector services to improve outcomes at lower costs. In Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole the pilot focused on how to secure better outcomes for older people across these communities.
- Local authorities bringing together housing and adult social care into single leadership – Chapter 6

5. Next Steps

- Introduce a National Care Service Bill in the next Parliament. This will set out the duties of the Secretary of State and local authorities to lead the delivery of care to those who need it.
- Enshrine national eligibility criteria for social care in law.
- Build a new quality framework to drive up quality throughout the care and support sector
- Commission national information and advice through a range of approved information and advice partners and developing a National Care Service 'brand'
- Consolidate the reforms in Putting People First such as personal budgets
- Introduce reforms to ensure that health and care services work together.
- Support the workforce in preparing for the National Care Service.

6. Other useful publications

DH launched a major resource in October 2009. The '**Use of Resources**' toolkit has been produced to assist local authority senior managers make a self-assessment against their progress in the use of resources. It also offers advice as to how managers can make shifts in the balance of the use of their money to get both efficient and effective services.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107596

'**Housing, Health and Care**', a policy and practice report, was published last year by the Chartered Institute of Housing and supported by the Housing LIN. It gives a comprehensive tour of the latest government policies and examples of leadership and how some local economies have risen to the challenge of transforming their services, forging effective relationships across housing, health and care, and responding to the diverse needs and aspirations of their populations.

<http://www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/IndependentLivingChoices/Housing/Topics/browse/Housing/HousingStrategy/?parent=3656&child=6907>

The DH White Paper '**Building the National Care Service**' can be downloaded under the following link:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114922

About the Housing Learning and Improvement Network

The Housing Learning and Improvement Network (LIN) is the national network for promoting new ideas, sharing learning and supporting change in the delivery of housing, care and support services for older and vulnerable adults. It is part of the Putting People First delivery team at the Department of Health and oversees the extra care housing capital programme.

More information is available at www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/housing

From July 2010 all information from the Housing LIN will appear at www.dh.gov.uk/extracare