

Archbishops' Commission on Reimagining Care

CARE AND SUPPORT REIMAGINED **A National Care Covenant for England**

A REPORT OF THE ARCHBISHOPS' COMMISSION



What is the Archbishops' Commission on Reimagining Care?

- Archbishops of Canterbury and York launched the Commission in April 2021. Nine members, experts including lived experience of social care and support, policy, theology, local government, housing and supported by Lambeth Palace staff team.
- Tasked **with reimagining care and support** so that everyone, regardless of age or ability, is able to live a full life. Long term and high level ambition (not focussing on current funding and delivery systems). Adults including later life: not children, not palliative care
- [Care and Support Reimagined: A National Care Covenant for England](#), outlines a radical new vision for care and support, drawing on Christian theology, tradition and values.



Activities undertaken by the Commission:

- **Values and principles:** these underpinned the Commission's report and suggested actions.
- **Survey:** issued a survey encouraging respondents to outline their experiences of care and support, and asked them what their reimagined vision of care and support would look like. We published a paper in April 2022 summarising this work: [Archbishops' Commission on Reimagining Care - Listening and Engagement Exercise | The Church of England](#)
- **Round tables:** huge range of organisations, to hear from people who draw on care and support and their carers.
- **One to one interviews :wide range of topics and issues** including emerging technologies, local authorities and their commissioners, parishes, voluntary sector, private providers, housing providers
- **Virtual summit:** public event online in June 2022 to test our emerging thinking.
- **Visits:** to a range of relevant projects to gather information and ideas, including almshouses, sheltered housing, community living
- **Meetings with stakeholders:** we met a wide range of stakeholders, including Ministers and policy leads at the Department of Health and Social Care, partner organisations, user-led groups, and faith-based initiatives.



What did we hear?

- Current care system is complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate for those who draw on care and support.
- Unpaid carers and care workers feel overstretched and undervalued.
- For people with health as well as care needs, social care and the NHS are poorly coordinated and work as separate systems.
- **BUT positive examples where communities, including churches and faith communities, provide vital informal support, proactive local authorities are delivering community-led initiatives, which can defer the need for support and that promote better mental and physical health.**



Housing and Technology

- Technologies already exist to transform daily living tasks but expensive, widely available, and older poorer residents least likely to adopt
- Location and neighbourhood-critical for combatting isolation, fostering support, identifying emerging needs
- New housing design—much improved, across all tenures BUT still needs attention to detail, as users' needs change
- Private rented sector growing-unsuitable design/insulation/energy costs
- Speed of aids and adaptations mission critical in enabling maximum freedom



Our vision of care and support in England is that:

- Care and support enables people to **flourish** and live life to the full.
- Access to and funding of care and support is **universal** and **fair**.
- How we care for one another reflects **loving kindness** and **empathy**.
- Society, including churches, are **inclusive** of all people, of all ages and abilities.
- How care and support are delivered promotes **mutuality** and is based on **trust**.



The Commission's recommendations

1. Rethinking attitudes
2. Rebalancing roles and responsibilities
3. Redesigning the system



Rethinking attitudes

- We must rethink the way care is viewed – care and support is not about meeting people’s basic needs, but the **spiritual, emotional and practical support we all need to live a full life.**
- Care and support is **everyone’s business** – at different times in our lives almost all of us will either be caring for someone, or being cared for by someone.
- These shifts in attitudes to care must go hand in hand with a challenge to current negative attitudes towards old age, disability, and mental illness.
- This should involve a **broad coalition** – including politicians, faith communities, charities, and user-led organisations – to take action and encourage a culture shift towards a better understanding of care and support.



Rebalancing roles and responsibilities

Calling for a National Care Covenant to set out the mutual responsibilities of individuals, families and communities, alongside local and national government. We hope this would lead to:

- More investment in – and emphasis on – communities as places in which everyone can be supported to participate and stay well.
- A new deal for unpaid carers, with more practical, financial and emotional support.
- A stronger role for the state in guaranteeing universal access, providing protection against the costs of care, and defining a framework of entitlements and rights.
- A renewed sense of our responsibilities as actively engaged citizens



Redesigning the system

We need a radical redesign of the system to make it simple, consistent and person-centred

With a long-term aspiration of making care and support a universal entitlement, the report argues for:

- A simplified assessment process that leads to a guaranteed budget
- People to be trusted to manage their own care and decide what support they need
- Independent advocacy to help people access their rights and entitlements
- A renewed emphasis on the personal qualities and values required for care worker roles



Next steps

- Work in progress!.....
- Follow up with interested parties
- Building coalition for change
- National Care Covenant



Links to the Commission's Work

- [Care and Support Reimagined – A National Care Covenant For England \(Long Report\)](#)
- [Care and Support Reimagined A National Care Covenant for England \(Summary\).pdf \(churchofengland.org\) \(Summary Report\)](#)
- [Shaping our Vision – Summary of the Listening and Engagement Exercise](#)
- [Values and Principles](#)



