

# Ripe for reform: the sector agrees, now the public expects

A guide to the care and support white paper



# Foreword

The Local Government Association (LGA) has long campaigned for reform of our care and support system and we believe we are edging closer to seeing real, tangible change for the better. The forthcoming white paper will be the next important milestone on this journey and we want to use its publication to continue building the momentum for reform.

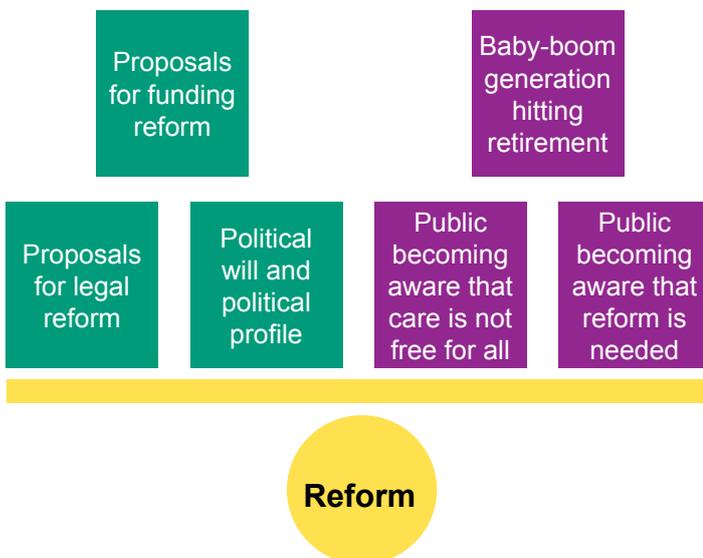
This reference guide sets out what we hope to see in the white paper and the measures we will be using to judge it. This is about the likelihood of the white paper moving us toward the sort of system we want in the future. We hope this guide therefore helps you to understand what the LGA wants from the white paper and provides you with a means for gauging its potential impact.

**Councillor David Rogers OBE**  
Chairman  
LGA Community Wellbeing Board

# Introduction

For decades central government has grappled with the issue of adult social care and support reform. Different governments have put forward ideas on exactly how this should be done, but they have led to only minor tangible changes to the system or have stalled completely. It is hard to pinpoint exactly why wholesale reform has never succeeded, although a combination of political inertia, public indifference to the debate, and concern over the associated costs have perhaps been to blame. In the next few weeks a new white paper on care and support will be published, and with this one the wider backdrop offers grounds for optimism as both the sector and the public seem to be agreed on the importance of addressing the issue.

## The sector agrees, now the public expects



## The conditions for reform

Care and support reform is an issue that is not just on the sector's radar – crucially it is becoming more of a recognised issue for the public as well. This creates a shared interest in seeing the system changed and provides the optimum conditions in which reform can flourish.

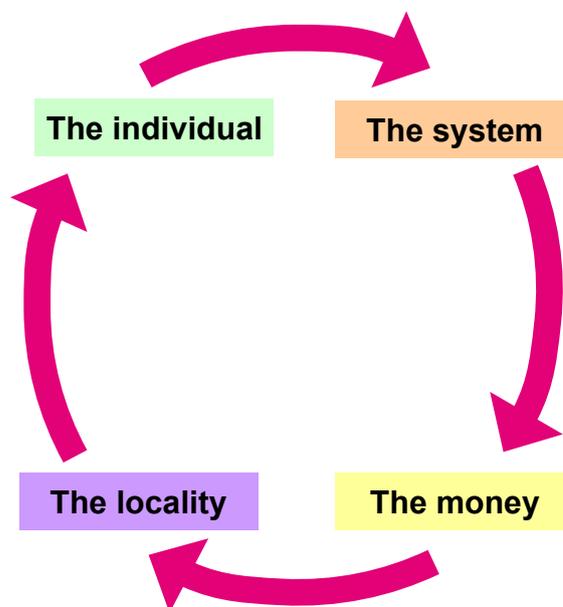
On the sector side the recent Law Commission and Dilnot Commission reports set out workable ideas around legal and funding reform respectively. And this is allied to political will to see reform through; the government has acknowledged the urgency of reform and we know that cross-party talks are ongoing to ensure consensus on the agenda.

On the public side the conditions are also favourable. As baby-boomers hit retirement their expectations of support in older age are higher than previous generations. This certainly sharpens the debate – particularly as the public is also becoming aware that care is not free at the point of delivery like the NHS and reform is therefore needed.

This positive backdrop will be quickly dashed however, if the white paper does not harness the considerable cross-sector momentum for reform and offer an outlook of real, practical change. So what are we looking for in the white paper?

# Making the system better

The white paper must set out how the government intends to build a better care and support system. This is a major task with roles and responsibilities for the state (both central and local government), individuals, communities, and the private and voluntary sectors. But what constitutes 'better'? Having been closely involved in the debate about reform over the last few years, and having worked with many stakeholders along the way, we believe there needs to be progress on four main themes if reform is to make an actual difference. These four themes give rise to our first test of the white paper.



**Test one:** Does the white paper set out proposals for a reformed system that is likely to achieve our aims of:

## The individual

Improving the individual's experience

## The system

Providing stability, predictability and transparency and encouraging the long term view

## The money

Providing sufficient funding that is appropriately directed

## The locality

Using the totality of local resources

## A better system



Measuring the extent to which the white paper outlines a future model of care and support that is likely to achieve the above aims is not easy. We have therefore defined each aim by a set of desired features of a future system; these then act as markers to gauge how far the white paper is likely to move us toward the system we ultimately want (as defined by the aims and their accompanying features). Our scorecards for each aim are set out below, along with the accompanying markers.

**Improving the individual’s experience – the white paper moves us toward a system that:**

- is simple, clear and likely to be easier to navigate for individuals \_\_\_/10
- enhances an individual’s choice and control of the care they receive and how they receive it \_\_\_/10
- is built around the individual’s expectations and aspirations and based on co-produced, user-focused outcomes \_\_\_/10
- fosters quality services that are founded on respect for the individual’s dignity and a commitment to safeguarding \_\_\_/10
- focuses more on case management and service design rather than eligibility \_\_\_/10
- supports the needs of an expanding workforce \_\_\_/10
- interacts with other linked services (particularly health) based around the individual’s needs, rather than the individual having to fit around the component parts of the wider system. \_\_\_/10

**Overall average score for the aim:** \_\_\_/10

**Providing stability, predictability and transparency and encouraging the long-term view – the white paper moves us toward a system that:**

- sets out clear expectations around what individuals (particularly self-funders) and the state will be expected to contribute towards care costs \_\_\_/10
- provides a range of information and advice to help people plan for their futures \_\_\_/10
- encourages people to live healthily throughout their lives to prevent the onset of avoidable long-term conditions in later life \_\_\_/10
- gives people confidence to live anywhere in England through portable assessments of needs and means \_\_\_/10
- removes the risk of individuals having to sell their home to pay for their care costs \_\_\_/10
- fosters the expansion and development of local care markets that genuinely reflect the needs of local communities. \_\_\_/10

**Overall average score for the aim:** \_\_\_/10

**Providing sufficient funding that is appropriately directed – the white paper moves us toward a system that:**

- provides sufficient funding for the system until a reformed system is in place \_\_\_/10
- provides sufficient ongoing funding to cover the impact of our changing demography \_\_\_/10
- provides sufficient funding for the cost of structural reform \_\_\_/10
- incentivises funding for upstream prevention and early intervention work. \_\_\_/10

**Overall average score for the aim:** \_\_\_/10

**Using the totality of local resources – the white paper moves us toward a system that:**

- focuses on overall quality of life and asks the question ‘what is it like to live here?’ \_\_\_/10
- takes an asset approach to care and support that values and incorporates the entirety of an area’s financial, physical and social resources and their contribution to wider wellbeing \_\_\_/10
- considers how best to align care and support with health, housing, benefits and the individual’s own resources \_\_\_/10
- sets the right tone on integration with health, with a focus on integration around the individual, not the organisation or service \_\_\_/10
- recognises the valuable contribution made by informal carers and supports them in their caring role. \_\_\_/10

**Overall average score for the aim:** \_\_\_/10

# A clear timetable for action

If these are our aims for the white paper, and the future system it proposes, we want to be confident that the government is committed to real action to take reform forward. This gives rise to our second test of the white paper.

This test is about confidence; confidence that the white paper will pave the way for real action, and confidence that the government will indeed see this agenda through. We believe there are three ways in which this test can be measured, as set out below.

**Test two:** Does the white paper set out a timetable for reform that recognises the urgency of the challenge and commits to immediate action where possible?

## Commitment to action



### Commitment to action – the white paper instils confidence that:

- there will be tangible change ahead of a care and support bill \_\_\_/10
- a care and support bill will be introduced by Summer 2013 \_\_\_/10
- a care and support bill will deliver the necessary changes to make the system better. \_\_\_/10

**Overall average score for the aim:** \_\_\_/10

# The role of local government

Adult social care and support is ultimately a local endeavour; a delicate ecology of council services and resources, the resources of individuals, community and family support, and interaction with other statutory and non-statutory services. As such we are clear that local government must continue to play a key role in a future care and support system, regardless of the exact shape that system takes.

This gives rise to our third and final test of the white paper and we believe there are four ways in which this test can be measured, as set out below.

**Test three:** Does the white paper articulate a clear role for local government in a reformed system and recognise the importance of a local approach to care and support?

**A clear role for local government**



**A clear role for local government** – the white paper moves us toward a system that:

- recognises the role and value of local political leadership and decision-making \_\_\_/10
- balances national inputs (such as portable assessments) with local flexibility to support local decisions about the services to meet need and the amount to pay for them \_\_\_/10
- makes appropriate links with Health and Wellbeing Boards, with councils taking a lead role in single commissioning with pooled budgets for appropriate client groups \_\_\_/10
- outlines clearly defined relationships between councils and key partners, such as health, regulators, providers and the third sector. \_\_\_/10

**Overall average score for the aim:** \_\_\_/10

# Scoring the white paper

We do not expect the white paper to set out a detailed future model of care and support that deals with all the mechanics of implementation and operation. Our 'scoring' of the white paper will therefore be based on whether it is setting the right tone and moving us toward the type of system we want to see in the future (as defined by the various features listed under the three tests above).

Once it is published we encourage readers of this guide to use our tests to score the white paper. We would be very interested to see your scores and below, for reference, you will find an overall 'scorecard' that lists all three tests and accompanying measures. You can email your scores to us at: [socialcare@local.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare@local.gov.uk)

We firmly believe that this is the best opportunity in a generation to reform care and support for the better. We look forward to the publication of the white paper and continuing to work with councils and all stakeholders to bring about the changes to care and support that are so vital. Together we can deliver on this agenda.



Test One	The white paper moves us towards a system that:	Score out of 10	
Improves the individual's experience	Is simple, clear and likely to be easier to navigate for individuals.		
	Enhances an individual's choice and control of the care they receive and how they receive it.		
	Is built around the individual's expectations and aspirations and based on co-produced, user-focused outcomes.		
	Fosters quality services that are founded on respect for the individual's dignity and a commitment to safeguarding.		
	Focuses more on case management and service design rather than eligibility.		
	Supports the needs of an expanding workforce.		
	Interacts with other linked services (particularly health) based around the individual's needs, rather than the individual having to fit around the component parts of the wider system.		
	<b>Overall average score for the aim</b>		
	Provides stability, predictability and transparency and encourages the long-term view	Sets out clear expectations around what individuals (particularly self-funders) and the state will be expected to contribute towards care costs.	
		Provides a range of information and advice to help people plan for their futures.	
Encourages people to live healthily throughout their lives to prevent the onset of avoidable long-term conditions in later life.			
Gives people confidence to live anywhere in England through portable assessments of needs and means.			
Removes the risk of individuals having to sell their home to pay for their care costs.			
Fosters the expansion and development of local care markets that genuinely reflect the needs of local communities.			
<b>Overall average score for the aim</b>			
Provides sufficient funding for the system until a reformed system is in place.			
Provides sufficient ongoing funding to cover the impact of our changing demography.			
Provides sufficient funding for the cost of structural reform.			
Incentivises funding for upstream prevention and early intervention work.			
<b>Overall average score for the aim</b>			

Uses the totality of local resources	Focuses on overall quality of life and asks the question 'what is it like to live here?'		
	Takes an asset approach to care and support that values and incorporates the entirety of an area's financial, physical and social resources and their contribution to wider wellbeing.		
	Considers how best to align care and support with health, housing, benefits and the individual's own resources.		
	Sets the right tone on integration with health, with a focus on integration around the individual, not the organisation or service.		
	Recognises the valuable contribution made by informal carers and supports them in their caring role.		
	<b>Overall average score for the aim</b>		
<b>Overall score for Test One</b>			
<b>Test Two</b>	<b>The white paper instils confidence that:</b>		<b>Score out of 10</b>
Commitment to action	There will be tangible change ahead of a care and support Bill.		
	A care and support Bill will be introduced by Summer 2013.		
	A Bill will deliver the necessary changes to make the care and support system better.		
<b>Overall average score for Test Two</b>			
<b>Test Three</b>	<b>The white paper moves us towards a system that:</b>		<b>Score out of 10</b>
A clear role for local government	Recognises the role and value of local political leadership and decision-making.		
	Balances national inputs (such as portable assessments) with local flexibility to support local decisions about the services to meet need and the amount to pay for them.		
	Makes appropriate links with Health and Wellbeing Boards, with councils taking a lead role in single commissioning with pooled budgets for appropriate client groups.		
	Outlines clearly defined relationships between councils and key partners, such as health, regulators, providers and the third sector.		
<b>Overall average score for Test Three</b>			
<b>Final overall score (average across the three tests)</b>			



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