

## **BASW England policy development on the future of Adult Social Care- Interim Position**

### **Summary**

1. This report summarises progress with developing a BASW England policy position on the future of Adult Social Care.
2. There are two key issues:
  - a) considering the responses from members to a BASW consultation survey on the *Future of Adult Social Care*
  - b) deciding how to respond to the Parliamentary Health and Social Care Committee *Social care: funding and workforce inquiry*

### **Background**

1. In response to the announcement in 2018 that the Green Paper on Adult Social Care would be published, BASW England established a task and finish subgroup (the Green Paper Working Group), to develop a position on behalf of BASW England members. A paper went out for consultation in October 2019 and the results of this were being evaluated when it was decided to pause the project because of the need to concentrate on Covid-related issues. The evaluation was reinstated at the request of the BASW UK Covid Committee to help with their thinking on how best to address the human rights and inequality issues that Covid-19 has thrown up.
2. Government policy development is currently being taken forward by the Parliamentary Health and Social Care Committee through the *Social care: funding and workforce inquiry*. The focus is on funding and workforce planning over the next 5 years, and it will also consider what further reforms are needed to the long-term social care funding system. Submissions are required by 31<sup>st</sup> July.
3. The BASW England consultation sought the views of members about the future of adult social care, and in particular how the system of assessing and meeting needs can be made more transparent and place more emphasis on promoting independence. This theme was developed in response to the principle of 'Control' - one of 7 principles set out by Jeremy Hunt for the proposed Green Paper announced in March 2018. This principle was described as: "What matters to individuals and families is the ability to direct the care they receive and autonomy to lead the lives they want". It included personalisation of care, transparency and access to information for people using services.
4. The BASW England paper proposed support for the Local Government Association submission to the Government that there should be an end to the "focus on an eligibility driven approach to needs" and that the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Disabled Persons concept of independent living be adopted as the standard of wellbeing against which 'needs' should be identified. It concluded by setting out how the framework provided by the Care Act could be revised to achieve the goal of transparent assessment built around partnership working and professional judgement, alongside transparent financial decision making, with clear recording of unmet need.

## Action Proposed

1. A response to the Parliamentary Health and Social Care Committee *Social care: funding and workforce inquiry* is to be prioritised.
2. The task and finish sub-group will be re-named: *The Future of Adult Social Care Sub-Group* and will re-convene to develop conclusions on the consultation and also the response to the inquiry.
3. The analysis is published on the BASW website in August, setting out how it was used in the response to the *Social care: funding and workforce inquiry* and stating that it will be used to inform the further development of BASW policy on the future of adult social care, to address issues that were not within the scope of the inquiry.
4. The task and finish sub-group will develop recommendations from the consultation, to be presented to the next England Committee 2.9.2020.