

# #FixCareForAll:

## A 5-point plan from the front line to reform social care

Covid-19 has shone a spotlight on the inadequacies of the nation's complex, fragmented and underfunded adult social care system. It's time to #FixCareForAll.



### 1. A new system must be fully resourced with a fair price for care

The current level of funding available for adult social care is simply not enough to meet needs and enable older people to live life to the full. 1.4 million older people do not have access to all the care and support they need, and this frequently adds pressure to the NHS. A long-term funding solution is necessary to recognise the true costs involved in providing quality care which includes sustainability and a professional workforce.

### 2. A national workforce strategy that values our people

The pandemic has brought into focus the 1.65 million people who work in adult social care and shown the heroism, professionalism and dedication given by them on a daily basis. A comprehensive national social care workforce strategy is needed to improve recruitment and retention and to recognise and reward care workers for the incredible work they do. This needs to include recognised career pathways, more consistent training options, and increases in pay and benefits, in parity with NHS workers. This needs to be backed by funding to make it happen.

### 3. Transparency and accountability, delivered through financial regulation

Increased funding used to fix care should sit alongside accountability for how funds are used. In addition to regulating quality and safety, which the CQC already does, finance and governance should also be subject

to regulation. This would ensure financial confidence and viability, that staff are paid according to the agreed funding guidelines, and that cash is not excessively drawn from the sector by private investors.

### 4. Care that is co-produced and co-designed with older people and the sector

Social care should enable people to live good lives, wherever they live. To achieve this, co-production and co-design must be paramount, which means a new system must be flexible enough to support innovation and collaboration. Eligibility should be expanded to ensure that people are empowered to maintain independence for as long as possible.

### 5. Seamless pathways and collaboration between health and social care

Health and social care are two sides of the same coin. The relationship between health and social care needs to be rebalanced with seamless care pathways. The development of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) provides an opportunity for greater engagement between health organisations, care providers, housing providers and the voluntary sector. However, a long term plan for social care is needed and must run alongside the NHS Long Term Plan with the ultimate goal of improved experience for people using services everywhere.

**The Government must act with urgency and resolve to bring forward a workable long-term, future-proofed funding settlement and plan for adult social care.**



MHA is a national charity providing care and support to over 18,000 older people in the UK through 89 residential care homes, 70 retirement living communities and 62 services in the community. We are one of the most well-respected care providers in the sector, providing services to older people for more than 75 years. To find out more about campaigns at MHA visit [fixcareforall.co.uk](https://fixcareforall.co.uk) or [mha.org.uk/action](https://mha.org.uk/action)