

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 OCTOBER 2021

**Question to Cllr Jessel
Cabinet Member for Health and Care**

By Cllr Charlotte Atkins

Question

To what extent will the Government's proposed reforms and additional funding announced in September for adult social care:

1. ensure the County Council can fund its present and future demand for adult social care
 2. deal with workforce issues, such as, existing vacancies, poor pay and conditions
 3. have a differential impact in different English regions
 4. guarantee that no one needing care will have to sell their home to pay for it
 5. compare to the County Council's own 'Social Care Green Paper', which was being drafted some months ago?
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Reply

On 07 September HM Government announced a series of proposals for adult social care reform to be implemented from October 2023. These include:

- a. Raising the capital asset thresholds at which the state makes a contribution to the cost of people's care and support.
- b. Setting a 'cap' of £86,000 on the maximum contribution an individual makes to the cost of their care and support in a lifetime.
- c. Support for the workforce – including more training places, mental well-being resource, and recruitment / retention initiatives.
- d. Giving self-funders the option to ask their local authority to arrange their care and support, at local authority rates.

The intention is that these will be supported by a share of £36bn to be raised from a 1.25% increase in National Insurance for workers and employers.

Further details are awaited and therefore it is not yet clear what additional funding will be available, the timescales involved and any preconditions. As soon as further details are known, council members will be informed.

The reforms will benefit people who might otherwise face very high costs for care and support. Local authorities already pay the full cost of people's care and support once their capital assets fall below £14,250. Local authorities also offer deferred payments for people with higher capital assets to prevent people needing to sell their homes to pay for care and support.

Now that the Government has published its own proposals, with further proposals to be developed for adult social care, the County Council will no longer be pursuing its own Green Paper.