

Terms of Reference for the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support

The Commission is asked to make recommendations on how to achieve an affordable and sustainable funding system or systems for care and support, for all adults in England, both in the home and other settings. The Commission should build on the extensive existing body of work in this area and provide advice on how to implement its chosen options.

The approach recommended must be affordable and sustainable in both the short and long term. It must be consistent with the Government's deficit reduction plan as set out in the June 2010 Budget and the Spending Review, and be sustainable for the public finances in the long term in the context of an ageing society. The Commission should present its initial views to the Secretary of State for Health and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury in order for these to be taken into account in the upcoming Spending Review.

The work of the Commission should support reform of the whole system, ensuring the right care is available at the right time, and in the right place, for individuals and their families. It must also be compatible with the Government's vision for care and support - supporting personalisation, prevention and partnership and offering protection for people. It should take into account how appropriate housing and related services can better support people with disabilities and in later life.

Furthermore, the Commission should consider the relationship its work has with the conclusions of the Government's wider work on welfare reform later this year. Based on these conclusions, the Commission will then be able to examine the interaction between the social care system and the GB-wide benefit system, and consider the impact of its proposals on savings and work incentives.

The Commission is asked to examine and provide deliverable recommendations on:

- how best to meet the costs of care and support as a partnership between individuals and the state;
- how people could choose to protect their assets, especially their homes, against the cost of care;
- how, both now and in the future, public funding for the care and support system can be best used to meet care and support needs;
- how its preferred option can be delivered, including an indication of the timescale for implementation, and its impact on local government (and the local government finance system), the NHS, and - if appropriate - financial regulation.

The Commission should judge funding models against set criteria, which it should agree, and present to the Government for approval, within the first two months. The assessment should include the following criteria:

- **Choice:** offering an affordable choice to individuals, carers and families across a range of care settings, and helping people plan and prepare for the future;
- **Fairness:** for individuals, families, carers and wider society;
- **Value for money:** securing the highest quality care outcomes with the available resources;
- **Sustainability;** ensuring the costs to the state are sustainable in the context of an ageing population.

In assessing options, the Commission will also be expected to take account of:

- earlier work carried out on the issue, including the Green Paper, *Shaping the future of care together*, the King's Fund Report, *Securing good care for more people*, the proposals for a Home Protection Scheme published in October 2009, and other academic research, international experience and public consultations;
- evidence from stakeholders - the Chair should consider convening an external reference group which includes, as a minimum, those representing older people, working-age adults with disabilities, carers, those commissioning and delivering care (including the views of local authorities) and the financial services sector;
- the views of those using services and the wider public on the trade-offs associated with achieving a sustainable funding system; and
- the interests of the Devolved Administrations, where appropriate.

The Commission should present its recommendations for consideration by the Chancellor and Secretary of State for Health by the end of July 2011 at the latest. The Chancellor and Secretary of State for Health will then consult with the Departments for Work and Pensions and Communities and Local Government, and relevant colleagues before presenting their recommendations to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister.