



Making Adult Social Care Better

Summary of the Final Report in Easy Read



Adult Social Care is about the help that some adults can get from social services.



We are the Law Commission. And we have written a report with ideas about how the law about adult social care should be changed to make adult social care better.

The Government has said that it will decide if it wants to make some of our suggestions law in 2012.

Idea 1 – Make the Law easier to understand.

If you want to find out about the law for adult social care you have to look at lots of different laws and rules. We suggest this should change.



All the laws should be in one place called a statute. We suggest there should be one statute for adult social care in England and another one in Wales.

This will make the law and rules easier to understand.

Idea 2 – Write some main beliefs about adult social care.



Main beliefs are like a list of things to think about when making decisions.

They are a guide on how to do things the best way.

We suggest there should be a list of main beliefs to help social services make the right decisions when they are caring for adults.



Here are some of the main beliefs we think should be written in the law;



1. The most important thing is the well-being of the person being helped or cared for.
2. The person being helped or cared for is the best person to say what is best for their well being. The only time this is not true is if the person is not able to make a decision for themselves.
3. Social services should do what the person wants if this is possible and sensible.
4. Social services must make sure people are kept safe from abuse and neglect if this is possible.
5. The freedom of the person being helped is very important. So if there is more than one way to help or care for the person then the least restrictive way is the best.



Idea 3 - This is all about Assessments.



We think social services should provide care for adults in two ways.

1. By helping in the community, for example by giving information and advice.
2. By helping individual people who need extra help or care.



To help individual people social services must decide who needs help.

To decide this, social services does an assessment of a person who might need help.

We think that social services should have to, by law, offer an assessment to any person who might need help.

It should be easy to get an assessment.

But also, any person should be allowed to refuse an assessment, unless they can't make decisions for themselves.



The assessment should be about the person's own needs and goals.

Social services should speak with the person or their carer when doing the assessment.



The assessment is very important because it decides if a person can get extra help and care or not. So the Government should write some regulations to say how the assessment must be done.



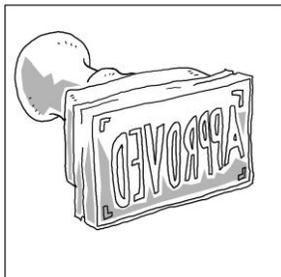
Here are some of our ideas for the regulations;

1. Social services must do the assessment in a way that is proportionate to the person's needs.



2. Social services must know when a specialist or someone with special skills should do an assessment.

3. Social services must list all the person's needs, even if a carer is already helping with those needs.



After social services has listed all the person's needs then it must decide which needs it will help with.

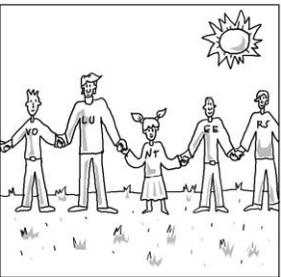
We think social services should create a list of needs which they will always help with.

These needs are called eligible needs.

Idea 4 – Do assessments for carers.



We think carers should get an assessment to find out if they need help.

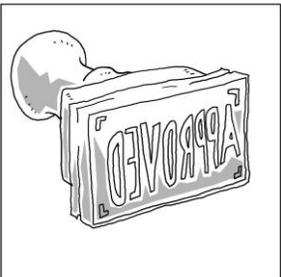


But carers who are paid or who are volunteers will not usually be able to get an assessment.



The carer's assessment is very important because it decides if the carer can get extra help or not.

So the Government should write some regulations to say how the carer's assessment must be done.



After social services has listed all the carer's needs then it must decide which needs it will help with.

We think social services should create a list of needs which they will always help with.

These needs are called eligible needs.

Idea 5 – Write a list of Services.



The law should list all the types of help and care or services that social services can give to someone who needs help.



Here are some of our ideas for the list of services that can be given;

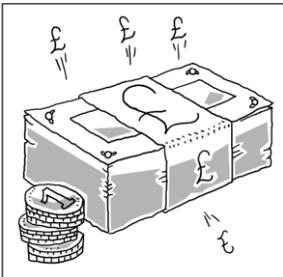


1. Housing,

2. Help in the home and in the community,



3. Advice and social work and counseling,



4. Financial help, this means help with money.

The law should also list the things that the services are helping with or trying to do.

These are called outcomes.



Here are our ideas for the list of outcomes;



1. Health and emotional well-being,



2. Protection from harm,



3. Education, training and hobbies,

4. Making sure people get their rights.

Idea 6 – This is all about Care Plans



We think that everyone who can get care must be given a care plan that is personal to them.

This will happen after the assessment if the assessment says the person can get care.

The Government should write regulations to say how a care plan must be done.



Here are some of our ideas for the regulations about the care plan;

1. A care plan must be written down.
2. A care plan must list all the person's needs and outcomes.
3. A care plan must list the services that the person is going to get. And if the person is going to get help with money and how much.
4. The person must always get a copy of their care plan.



Idea 7 – Keep adults safe



We think social services must try to help if they think a person is being harmed.

Social services should be able to get help from other workers like the police or the health service.



To help the social services do this, they should set up a special committee of workers who have the job of keeping adults safe from harm.

The special committee should include workers from other places like the police and the health service.

Idea 8 – Keep providing care when someone moves to another area

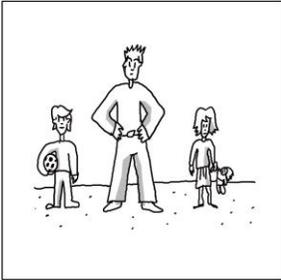


We think that social services should work together better and talk to each other more.

This is so that a person will still get care if they move from one area to another.

Other ideas

We think young people should sometimes be able to get an assessment just like an adult.



Normally the adult assessment is for people who are 18 years old or older.

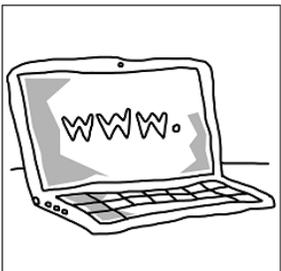
But young people who are 16 or 17 years old should be able to ask for an adult assessment.



At the moment social services keep a list of disabled people. We do not think this is needed.

But we do think local authorities should keep a list of blind people.

More Information



Do you want more information about our ideas for adult social care?

If you can use the internet, you can use this website address www.lawcom.gov.uk to get more information.