



# Carer's Network Bulletin

October - November 2023

The aim of this current awareness bulletin is to provide a digest of recent guidelines, reports, research and best practice.

## **Adult social care funding pressures: estimated costs to meet growing demand and improve services in England**

This [long read from the Health Foundation](#) uses four scenarios to highlight the potential funding pressures in adult social care up to 2032/33. These reflect some of the key issues that need to be addressed to meet future demand and improve adult social care.

## **Adult social care in the NHS: two sides of the same coin**

This [report from the NHS Confederation](#) provides an overview of total capacity and national trends across the health and care sector as well as the variation across the country. It focuses on demand for and provision of state-funded social care for older people as the largest group drawing on care and support, but finds that fewer people are being supported by state-funded social care in England despite the increase in people aged 65 and over. However, the need for care and support is also increasing among both working-age adults and children.

## **Being a staff member and a carer in the NHS: who should care?**

Of the 12 million staff working for the NHS, an estimated 250,000 are also carers. In this [guest blog from the King's Fund](#), Raka Maitra explores why there are significant benefits to the NHS and patient care in supporting doctor carers.

## **Can you tell we care? Identifying unpaid carers using local authority and GP records**

There are at least 5.7 million unpaid carers in the UK who need support from the NHS and social care services. This can range from health checks, social prescribing and community support services to breaks and practical and financial support. This [report from The Health Foundation](#) looks at how many carers were known to GPs and local authorities in four areas of England and Wales.

## **Care for our future: the roadmap to a sustainable future for adult social care**

This [document from Care England](#) sets out the sector's priorities across three key themes – workforce, funding and integration. The roadmap issues a series of policy recommendations for the next government to implement within 100 days, two years and five years of entering office. The plan is backed by major representative groups from across the sector.

## **Carenomics: unlocking the economic power of care**

This [report from a cross-party coalition](#) including former health and care ministers, employers and unions, makes the economic case for investing in social care, setting out the benefits this investment would have to the wider economy. Drawing on a wide range of evidence, this report emphasises the substantial return on investment that social care could deliver. Potential benefits include improving employment chances for disabled people, reducing pressure on the NHS, reducing costs for employers, levelling up for poorer areas, and building a more purposeful economy.



**Caring for adults with a learning disability in acute hospitals**

The aim of this [report from the Health Services Safety Investigations Body](#) is to help improve the inpatient care of adults with a known learning disability in acute hospital settings.

**Could early intervention prevent a retirement disability benefit time-bomb**

The increasing number of working-age individuals in the UK unable to work due to sickness or disability is a growing concern. Unless steps are taken to improve the health of individuals, there is a risk of a significant number of people spending a decade or more in retirement on disability benefits. This [paper looks at the potential cost of leaving this growth in working-age disability unresolved](#) and provides preventive health recommendations for the public and government.

**Developing a data pact: the relationship between the public, their data, and the health and care system**

This [report from the Patient's Association](#) shows that the relationship between patients and their data is deeply personal. Patients recognise that the potential for data use to improve care is huge. This research showed widespread support for realising this potential – if patients' concerns are acknowledged and addressed.

**Families of people with complex medical needs are warning the NHS system that funds their care at home is struggling to provide sufficient support.**

BBC News has followed [24-year-old Declan Spencer for 10 months](#), witnessing how the repeated breakdown of his care has left his mother having to provide it by herself, day and night.

**Intermediate care framework for rehabilitation, reablement and recovery following hospital discharge**

This [framework](#) and [good practice guidance](#) from NHS England consists of best practice guidance and a number of recommended actions that systems should consider in connection with their intermediate care services, and implement where appropriate locally, and affordable within available budgets. It is focused on step-down intermediate care – time-limited, short-term health and/or social care provided to adults who need support after discharge from acute inpatient settings and virtual wards to help them rehabilitate, re-able and recover.

**Moving care closer to home: three unanswered questions**

This [blog from the King's Fund](#) tries to answer three questions around the future of the health and care system in England.

**We all have a voice: Disabled children's vision for change**

This [report brings together quantitative and qualitative research conducted by the Children's Commissioner's office \(CCo\) as part of a commission by the Cabinet Office's Disability Unit ahead of developing its Disability Action Plan 2023-24](#). The Cabinet Office was particularly interested in understanding children's experiences of transitions, an important theme which is explored in this report. It also discusses other key barriers that disabled children face and puts forward recommendations based on what children say they want and need for a more inclusive society. This report focuses on the experiences of disabled children – that can include children with autism and other neurodevelopmental needs, additional social and emotional needs, as well as physical needs.

**Who is more likely to lose in the postcode lottery of health?**



United Lincolnshire  
Hospitals  
NHS Trust

## Library and Knowledge Services

Assistant Director of Research at The Health Foundation, Justine Karpusheff, looks at [how and why your postcode matters when it comes to your health](#).

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