Who cares about social care?

Simon Bottery
Senior Fellow, Social Care

@blimeysimon
What is adult social care?

“Any help that you need, such as personal care or practical assistance, to live your life as comfortably and independently as possible, because of age, illness or disability.”

- Think Local, Act Personal Care and Support ‘jargonbuster’
Who uses it

868,440: Council funded long-term care clients

241,810: Council funded short-term care episodes

172,000: Self-funders in care homes

164,000: Self-funders receiving home care

1.2m older people need care but don't get it
How much is spent on it?

Spending on *publicly*-funded social care by councils is split roughly:
- 1/3 children
- 1/3 working age adults
- 1/3 older people

![Local authority spending by service area chart](chart.png)

Adult social care is the largest area of local authority spending.

Spend by service area, 2016-17 (outturn)

- Adult social care: 16.8
- Children’s social care: 8.5
- Environmental services: 4.5
- Public health: 3.5
- Central services: 2.9
- Culture and leisure: 2.2
- Highways and transport: 2.2
- Housing services (excluding HFA): 1.5
- Planning and development: 1.0

Source: National Audit Office

© The Kings Fund 2017
The funding gap

Figure 4: Adult social care funding gap (net expenditure £ billion, in 2017/18 prices)

KF: £2.5bn shortfall by 2020
Increasing social care costs

- More older people living longer...
- More disabled people living longer
- Wage costs

+
Who qualifies for publicly funded social care?

Or: Pole vaulters and limbo dancers – getting your council to pay for your care.
NHS vs. social care

NHS: free at point of use

Social care: needs- and means-tested.
People's needs must be higher than one bar...

"Impairment or illness: cannot achieve at least two outcomes"
Their assets must be lower than another bar...

£23,250
The NHS and social care: some numbers
Social care is bigger than you think
Hospital beds v. care home beds

- 142,000 hospital beds
- 410,000 care home beds (occupied)
GP contact time v home care contact time

68 million hours GP contact time

249 million hours home care contact time
NHS staff v. social care staff

1.2m NHS (hospital and community) staff

1.45m social care staff
But smaller in some ways
NHS staff wage bill vs. social care wage bill

£32.2bn* NHS wage bill

£19.3bn social care wage bill
Politics
Political changes

Responsibility for social care switched to Department of Health and Social Care
New minister (at higher level)
Green paper move from Cabinet Office
‘Parallel process’ for working age adults
Carers ‘action plan’

Social care green paper
- Due before summer recess
- ‘Broad in scope’
- ‘Full range of issues’
Finally: who DOES care about social care?
Thank you

Simon Bottery
@blimeysimon
S.Bottery@kingsfund.org.uk

www.kingsfund.org.uk