Who cares about social care?

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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

868,000: Council funded long-term care clients

206,000: Council funded short-term care episodes

172,000: Self-funders in care homes

164,000: Self-funders receiving home care

1.4m 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
The funding gap

Figure 1: Adult social care funding pressures, 2015/16 to 2030/31

KF/HF: £1.5bn shortfall by 2021
Increasing social care costs

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

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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.

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"Impairment or illness: cannot achieve at least two outcomes"

People's needs must be higher than one bar...
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 staff (hospital and community)

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
NHS training budget vs. social care training budget

£4.7bn Health Education England training budget

£21m Skills for Care training budget
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 in Autumn
- ‘Broad in scope’
- ‘Full range of issues’
Finally: who DOES care about social care?