

## Written evidence submitted by the Department of Health and Social Care (SCF0069)

### Contents

Introduction.....	2
Government Funding Injections for Adult Social Care since 2015-16 .....	4
Future Demand for Adult Social Care .....	8
Workforce.....	10
Expected growth in jobs in adult social care .....	10
Factors affecting recruitment and retention in ASC .....	12
Current initiatives to support the growth of the adult social care workforce .....	13
COVID-19 Funding .....	16

### Introduction

COVID-19 has had a large impact on the social care sector to date, and the Government has acted to support the sector through funding measures (p16) and by responding to assist the social care workforce (p14). The focus of this evidence submission is predominantly on pre-COVID funding and workforce support. We are revisiting future funding requirements in light of the impact of COVID-19, and the measures taken to support the care sector during COVID-19. The Government is committed to ensuring that the social care sector is properly supported to provide quality care in the face of growing demand and workforce pressures. Funding and determining the local priorities for social care is the responsibility of Local Authorities. To support councils with the provision of social care we have taken steps to stabilise the system, while developing the workforce and raising the profile of adult social care as a profession:

- The 2020-21 Local Government Finance Settlement provided local authorities with access to an additional £1.5 billion for adult and children’s social care, as part of an overall 4.4% real terms increase in local authority spending. Coming in addition to £2.5 billion of existing social care grants that were maintained in 2020-21, this funding is supporting local authorities to meet rising demand and to continue to stabilise the social care system.
- We have invested in our social care national recruitment campaign, ‘When you care, every day makes a difference’, and funded Skills for Care to support the sector with recruitment, retention, and workforce development.

The support that the Government has provided has been key in maintaining the quality of the social care sector. At the beginning of May 84% of adult social care providers in England are rated as ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ by the Care Quality Commission, while the Adult Social Care Survey for 2018-19 showed that 89% of those who received adult social care services were satisfied with the level of care they received.

Integration across health and social care enables improved co-operation and joint decision-making between health and social care partners in delivering shared outcomes. However, Integration is a means to an end rather than an end in itself.

The NHS and social care system need to work together effectively. However, social care should not be viewed exclusively through its relationship with the NHS. Just as importantly, a sustainable social care system is needed to ensure that essential care services continue to deliver for the ageing population, and the increasing number of people who require care services.

There is still a lot more to do to put in place the social care system we want for the future. The number of people requiring care will continue to rise and we recognise that the social care sector can struggle to recruit and retain the right number of vital workers.

On funding, the Government is committed to continuing to assist local authorities with their statutory duties to provide social care. At the March 2020 Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer committed to a Spending Review later this year.

Putting social care on a sustainable footing, where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, is one of the biggest challenges that we face as a society.

There are complex questions to address, which is why we have invited cross-party talks. These will take place at the earliest opportunity in light of the current circumstances. The Government will then bring forward a plan for social care for the longer term.

This short submission sets out the actions that we have taken so far and summarises the future challenge.

## Government Funding Injections for Adult Social Care since 2015-16

Local authorities commission most social care in England and most expenditure on social care comes directly from local authority revenues.

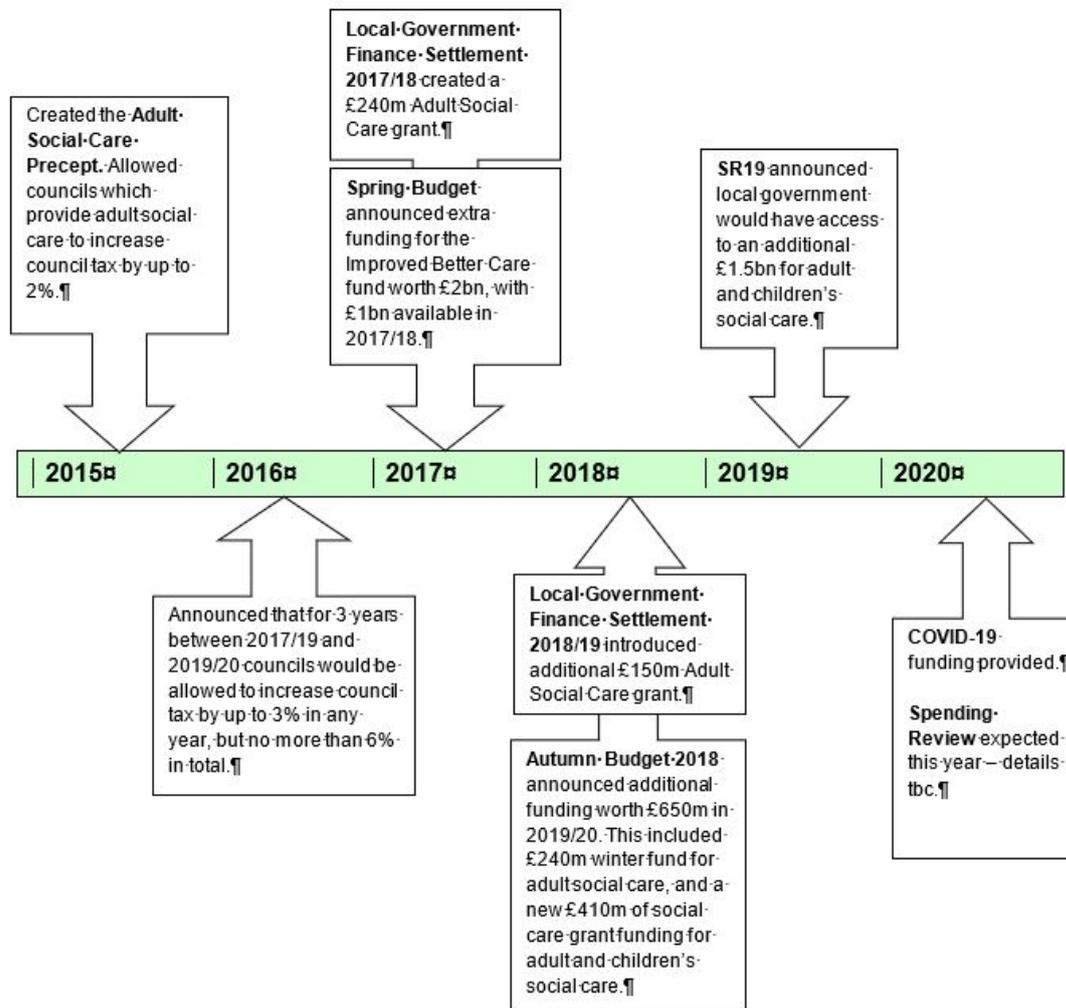
Since the Spending Review in 2015 the Government has taken several specific actions to increase the funding in the social care system by providing additional support to local government from national taxation. Throughout this period the Government has worked closely with local authorities and key stakeholders in the care sector to better understand the financial pressures they face, and this has led the thinking behind the actions taken to continue to ensure that adult social care is adequately funded.

The timetable in figure 1 provides an overview of the adult social care funding additions the Government has made available since 2015. Table 1 shows the funding that has been provided, as part of local authority core spending power, over the same period.

In addition to the funding highlighted in table 1, the Better Care Fund has also put more funding into the social care system.

Table 1 illustrates that the specific funding streams provided for adult social care only represent a portion of the funding that is available to councils. Indeed, the vast majority of expenditure on adult social care comes from within local government core budgets. In 2018-19, overall public spending on social care was £17.92 billion, which was an increase in cash terms of £780 million from £17.13 billion in 2017-18.

**Figure 1: Timeline of funding additions to Adult Social Care since 2015**



**Table 1: Local Authority Core Spending Power, 2015-16 to 2020-21**

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
	£ millions					
Settlement Funding Assessment	21,249.9	18,601.7	16,632.6	15,574.2	14,559.6	14,796.9
Compensation for under-indexing the business rates multiplier	165.1	165.1	175.0	275.0	400.0	500.0
Council Tax of which;	22,035.9	23,247.3	24,665.8	26,331.6	27,767.8	29,385.6
<i>Council Tax Requirement excluding parish precepts (including base and levels growth)</i>	22,035.9	22,858.5	23,701.6	24,766.9	25,877.2	26,892.2
<i>additional Council Tax from referendum principle for social care</i>	0.0	381.8	948.2	1,529.1	1,799.7	2,373.3
<i>additional Council Tax from cash referendum principles for Districts and the GLA</i>	0.0	7.0	16.0	35.6	90.8	120.1
Improved Better Care Fund	0.0	0.0	1,115.0	1,499.0	1,837.0	2,077.0
New Homes Bonus	1,167.6	1,461.9	1,227.4	947.5	917.9	907.2
New Homes Bonus returned funding	32.4	23.1	24.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rural Services Delivery Grant	15.5	80.5	65.0	81.0	81.0	81.0
Transition Grant	0.0	150.0	150.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Adult Social Care Support Grant	0.0	0.0	241.1	150.0	0.0	0.0
Winter Pressures Grant <sup>1</sup>	0.0	0.0	0.0	240.0	240.0	0.0
Social Care Support Grant <sup>2</sup>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	410.0	0.0
Social Care Grant	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,410.0
<b>Core Spending Power</b>	<b>44,666.5</b>	<b>43,729.5</b>	<b>44,296.5</b>	<b>45,098.3</b>	<b>46,213.3</b>	<b>49,157.7</b>
Change since 2015-16 (£ millions)						4,491.2
Change since 2015-16 (% change)						10.1
<p><sup>1</sup>For 2020-21, Winter Pressures Grant allocations will be rolled into the Improved Better Care Fund, and no longer ringfenced for alleviating winter pressures.</p> <p><sup>2</sup>For 2020-21, Social Care Support Grant allocations will be rolled into the Social Care Grant.</p> <p>Please see the Core Spending Power Explanatory note for details of the assumptions underpinning the elements of Core Spending Power.</p> <p>The figures presented in Core Spending Power do not reflect the changes to Settlement Funding Assessment made for authorities with increased Business Rate Retention arrangements. For information about authorities with increased Business Rates Retention Arrangements see the Explanatory Note. For Settlement Funding Assessment figures after adjustments for increased business rate retention authorities please see the Key Information for Local Authorities table.</p>						

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/core-spending-power-final-local-government-finance-settlement-2020-to-2021>

**Table 2: Net current expenditure in England on adult social care services in cash terms, by source of funding, 2009-10 to 2018-19 (£ billion)**

	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	3-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
Social services departments	14.5	14.6	14.8	14.6	14.7	14.4	14.3	14.8	15.1	15.8
Valuing People Now	1.3	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NHS transfer to local authorities	-	-	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.1	-	-	-	-
Planned Better Care fund expenditure on social care	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.1
Winter pressures transfer	-	0.2	0.2	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total net expenditure estimate</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>17.9</b>

**Source:** [NHS Digital, Adult Social Care Activity and Finance Report, England – 2018-19](#)

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is the national policy driving forward the integration of health and social care in England.

The BCF requires NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities to make joint plans and pool budgets for the purposes of integrated care.

The 2019 Spending Round announced that the BCF (CCG minimum allocations) would continue into 2020-21 with a real-terms increase of 3.4%, and that the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) would be maintained at flat cash. The iBCF is paid as a direct grant to local government, and must be pooled into the local BCF plan (along with the Disabled Facilities Grant). For 20-21, the iBCF will now include £240 million previously earmarked for winter pressures, which is intended to enable local areas to plan year-round for winter.

**Table 3: Better Care Fund funding breakdown**

<b>£m</b>	<b>17-18</b>	<b>18-19</b>	<b>19-20</b>	<b>20-21</b>
CCG minimum contribution	3,582	3,650	3,844	4,048
Disabled Facilities Grant <sup>1</sup>	431	468	505	505
improved Better Care Fund	1,115	1,499	1,837	2,077
Winter Pressures Grant <sup>2</sup>	-	-	240	
<b>Total BCF mandatory minimum</b>	<b>5,128</b>	<b>5,617</b>	<b>6,426</b>	<b>6,630</b>
CCG voluntary additional funding	1,101	1,108	1,603 <sup>3</sup>	tbc
LA voluntary additional funding	1,094	1,011	1,181 <sup>3</sup>	tbc
<b>TOTAL BCF</b>	<b>7,323</b>	<b>7,735</b>	<b>9,209<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>tbc</b>

*Figures may not sum due to rounding*

<sup>1</sup> *excluding additional Autumn Budget funding in 17-18 and 18-19*

<sup>2</sup> *The Winter Pressures Grant in 2018-19 was outside the BCF and is therefore not included.*

<sup>3</sup> *Based on indicative plan data and subject to change*

## Future Demand for Adult Social Care

Table 4 sets out how many people were receiving publicly funded long-term care at the end of 2018-19.

**Table 4: Long-term support users, 2018-19, at end of year.**

		<b>Number of users</b>
<b>Community Care</b>		
	Older people (65+)	231,470
	Younger adults (18-64)	213,525
<b>Residential and nursing care</b>		
	Older people (65+)	149,910
	Younger adults (18-64)	41,590
<b>Total</b>		<b>636,495</b>

The Government uses modelling from the London School of Economics' Care Policy and Evaluation Centre (CPEC) to understand how demand for publicly-funded care is likely to change in the future. The latest evidence shows that the demand for publicly-funded long-term care will continue to grow across all settings. Moreover, while public discourse often

concentrates on the ageing population and demand for care for older people will continue to grow, it is important to note the predicted increase in people requiring care in the 18-64 age category.

We recognise that COVID-19 may have longer term impacts on the demand pressures for adult social care. The Department will keep projections under review as additional information becomes available about the impact of COVID-19 on demand for care services, and on the additional costs of providing safe care whilst there is community transmission of COVID-19.

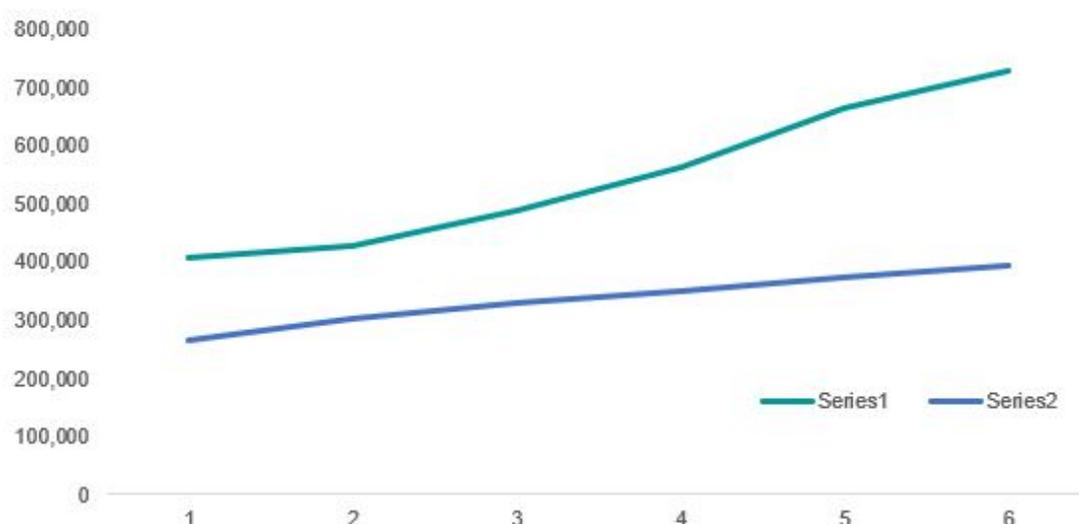
Table 5 and figure 2 illustrate the forecasted increase in demand for publicly-funded social care up to 2040.

**Table 5: Publicly-funded long-term care, by care setting, 2015-2040**

	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
<b>Community Care</b>						
Older people (65+)	249,000	262,000	303,000	361,000	425,000	466,000
Younger adults (18-64)	199,800	227,700	246,900	261,600	275,600	289,800
<b>Residential care</b>						
Older people (65+)	157,000	167,000	187,000	202,000	238,000	262,000
Younger adults (18-64)	66,100	73,700	81,300	88,900	96,200	103,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>671,900</b>	<b>730,400</b>	<b>818,200</b>	<b>913,500</b>	<b>1,034,800</b>	<b>1,121,100</b>

Source: Wittenberg, Raphael, Hu, Bo and Hancock, Ruth (2018) *Projections of demand and expenditure on adult social care 2015 to 2040*. PSSRU discussion papers (DP2944). Personal Social Services Research Unit, Economics of Health and Social Care Systems Policy, London, UK. <<http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/88376/>>

**Figure 2 – Publicly Funded Long-term Care Users**



## Workforce

In normal times, approximately 1.5 million people in England work hard in roles in the adult social care sector so the people they help can live healthier and more independent lives. From communicating with people with dementia and severe learning disabilities, supporting people to eat and bathe with dignity, to empowering people into work and participation in community life, working in social care requires both skill and commitment to values of caring for others. These contributions often go unrecognised and are undervalued in our society.

We have never relied on our social care workforce more than now. Every day of their working lives, they are making a difference. It is therefore vital that we do all we can to support those working in social care, along with taking steps to increase the workforce through the recruitment of returners and appropriately skilled new care workers.

Put bluntly, we need more people to work in social care. This is not only a short-term ambition to help steer us through the COVID-19 pandemic – it is also a long-term ambition to meet the needs of our society in the future. Right now, we need more people working in social care to cover for those who are not in work, and to relieve the pressure on those that are. Yet prior to the pandemic, social care employers often struggled to recruit and retain the right number of staff, with the right values and skills, and that vacancy and turnover rates across the sector are high. We are working alongside stakeholders in adult social care to support a growing workforce, with the values and skills to deliver high quality, compassionate care.

### **Expected growth in jobs in adult social care**

Prior to the pandemic, vacancy rates in social care had been increasing. The overall vacancy rate was 7.8% (equating to 122,000 vacancies at any one time) However, there is no single labour market for the majority of social care jobs, and it is very impacted by local factors. The vacancy rate across the country varies from 2% in Halton and Southwark to 17% in Hounslow and Reading. . Vacancies are highest for registered managers (11.4%) and registered nurses (9.9%).<sup>1</sup> The number of social care jobs has also increased significantly (22%) since 2009 – that is equivalent to 290,000 additional jobs.<sup>2</sup>

We also know that population demand for social care is growing as people live longer with increasingly complex and multiple health and care needs. Skills for Care forecasts show that, without any productivity changes, if the adult social care workforce grows proportionally to the projected number of people aged 65 and over in the population between 2018 and 2035, an increase of 36% (580,000 jobs) would be required by 2035.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/adult-social-care-workforce-data/Workforce-intelligence/documents/State-of-the-adult-social-care-sector/State-of-Report-2019.pdf> pp8 and 32

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/adult-social-care-workforce-data/Workforce-intelligence/documents/Size-of-the-adult-social-care-sector/Size-and-Structure-2019.pdf> pp6

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/adult-social-care-workforce-data/Workforce-intelligence/documents/State-of-the-adult-social-care-sector/State-of-Report-2019.pdf> pp12

**Table 6: Adult social care jobs projections between 2018 and 2035, based on the number of people in the population aged 65 or 75 and over<sup>4</sup>**

Model	2018	2020	2025	2030	2035	% increase in jobs 2018-2035
65+ Model	1,620,000	1,670,000	1,820,000	2,020,000	2,200,000	36%
75+ Model	1,620,000	1,700,000	2,000,000	2,200,000	2,420,000	50%

Providers also face difficulties in retaining staff: the annual turnover rate was 30.8%, equivalent to 440,000 leavers in 2018-19. The Care Worker role, which is often the entry level of the employees in to the sector, had a 39.5% turnover rate in 2018-19. 66% of this turnover of recruitment was from within adult social care, but this is still costly for individual providers and disrupts continuity of care.<sup>5</sup>

High vacancy and turnover rates have the potential to reduce quality and sustainability in social care, by:

- increasing costs for providers: in recruiting and training new staff, backfilling vacancies, and the use of temporary agency workers;
- affecting investment decisions, reducing sector capacity to meet growing population demand for care; and
- reducing the continuity and quality of care for citizens.

The annual data published by Skills for Care each summer takes a snapshot of the position in the March of that year. That means the data published this summer will be from before the wider context of the pandemic. However, Skills for Care have been producing monthly tracking data<sup>6</sup> based on a sample of employers completing ASC-WDS each month that can be used to give an indication of changes taking place during the pandemic. These figures will be referenced in the published reports. The Department has previously laid out our vision for digital, data and technology in health and care<sup>7</sup>, and one of the things we need to understand more about how the pandemic has impacted recruitment and retention in to the social care workforce. Anecdotal evidence from providers is that the picture is mixed: some providers are finding it much easier to recruit and retain staff; others more difficult. This is in part due to the competing pressures social care employers have faced in terms of prioritising care, training and recruitment through the response to the pandemic. There have also been

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/adult-social-care-workforce-data/Workforce-intelligence/documents/Size-of-the-adult-social-care-sector/Size-and-Structure-2019.pdf> pp51

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/adult-social-care-workforce-data/Workforce-intelligence/documents/State-of-the-adult-social-care-sector/State-of-Report-2019.pdf> pp44

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/adult-social-care-workforce-data/Workforce-intelligence/publications/Topics/COVID-19/COVID-19.aspx>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-future-of-healthcare-our-vision-for-digital-data-and-technology-in-health-and-care/the-future-of-healthcare-our-vision-for-digital-data-and-technology-in-health-and-care#cs10-main>

differential effects on different types of service – for example between nursing, residential services and out-reach services. While the Department is supporting the sector to recruit the people they need through this period, with services designed to ease the process of both recruitment and training new people, it will be important to regularly review the sector's needs to continue tailoring support.

### **Factors affecting recruitment and retention in ASC**

As highlighted earlier in this evidence the vacancy and turnover rates in adult social care are generally too high. However, some employers do buck this trend, and are able to recruit enough staff with the right skills and the right values.

#### ***They attract more candidates by:***

- investing in staff development;
- offering good rates of pay and working conditions;
- developing a good staff culture where people are supported and valued;
- utilising staff networks to attract like-minded people who buy in to the organisation; and
- being clear from the outset about the realities of the job.

#### ***They get the right people by:***

- conducting values-based interviews;
- offering work experience or taster shifts
- including service users in the selection process;
- including pre-interview visits and assessments in recruitment; and
- Engaging with local pre-employment initiatives.

#### ***They develop talent and skills by:***

- providing learning and qualifications to improve skills and knowledge;
- establish a mentor or buddy programme;
- facilitating group knowledge sharing sessions; and
- continuously modelling and checking that the values and behaviours that are important to their organisation are embedded in their workplace.

#### ***They keep the right people by:***

- investing in learning and development;
- embedding the right values and behaviours;
- celebrating achievements;
- involving staff in decision making;
- maintaining competitive rates of pay; and
- creating a culture of commitment and loyalty.

There are a variety of factors which affect the vacancy and retention rates for social care, which the Government is committed to continuing to address. On pay, the average care worker was better off, in real terms, by 62p per hour in March 2019 than they were in September 2012<sup>8</sup>. However, overall the sector is still relatively low paid and the gap between

the average hourly wage for care workers and the national living wage has closed significantly (73p in 2012 to 27p in 2019)<sup>9</sup>. We know opportunities for advancement are available (entry level managerial role vacancies are at 5.3%<sup>10</sup>), and that completing training or gaining qualifications can support staff to access these opportunities (care worker turnover is higher without a qualification than with a qualification (30.0% vs 21.6%)<sup>11</sup>. We are therefore committed to ensuring those in the sector have access to the training they need to continue their careers in the sector.

The Government is also committed to continuing to raise awareness of the variety of roles within social care and ensuring people in the sector feel valued and rewarded for the vital work that they do. We are continuing to develop the CARE brand to support this.

### **Current initiatives to support the growth of the adult social care workforce**

In 2019 the Government launched a national recruitment campaign for adult social care. In April 2020 we refined and adapted the campaign to reflect the current situation, relaunching it under the banner “[Care for Others, Make a Difference](#)”. This campaign has run across broadcast, digital, and social media in order to attract people to work in social care the sector. Under the strapline ‘We need you now, they need you always’, the campaign highlights the vital role that the social care workforce is playing right now, during this pandemic, along with the longer-term opportunity of working in care.

We have also launched a new online platform [joinsocialcare.co.uk](https://joinsocialcare.co.uk) to fast-track recruitment into the social care sector. The online platform allows candidates to access free training via Skills for Care and the opportunity to be considered for multiple job opportunities. This will streamline the recruitment process for candidates and employers and will sit alongside the many local initiatives that have been put in place to recruit staff.

The department continues to commission and fund a range of training opportunities and other programmes to help recruit people into the sector and to develop leadership within social care. These programmes include the Think Ahead programme, which has taken on over 400 participants since its launch, which trains graduates to become mental health social workers. We also fund Skills for Care to deliver graduate programmes and leadership development programmes for the sector, with over 1,200 participants in the last five years. We also fund Skills for Care to support the sector with recruitment, retention, and workforce development in adult social care. This includes distributing £11.43 million a year (2019-20) through the **Workforce Development Fund**, a fund that employers can bid for to pay for their staff to gain training and qualifications at all levels.

### **Responding to COVID-19**

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/adult-social-care-workforce-data/Workforce-intelligence/publications/Topics/Pay-rates.aspx>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/adult-social-care-workforce-data/Workforce-intelligence/documents/State-of-the-adult-social-care-sector/State-of-Report-2019.pdf> pp84, chart 50

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/adult-social-care-workforce-data/Workforce-intelligence/documents/State-of-the-adult-social-care-sector/State-of-Report-2019.pdf> pp59

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/adult-social-care-workforce-data/Workforce-intelligence/documents/State-of-the-adult-social-care-sector/State-of-Report-2019.pdf> pp117

Our COVID-19 Action Plan for social care recognised that role the social care workforce plays in the effort against COVID-19 and our determination to do everything we can to ensure they are safe, supported and truly valued.<sup>12</sup>

During this period the department was put in place measures to ensure we have the staff we need, support security and wellbeing for the workforce, and demonstrate appreciation for the dedication and hard work of those in the sector. These measures include rapidly response training (developed by Skills for Care for new volunteers, new starters and staff needing to refresh their skills), fully funded for employers by our WDF funding, to help employers feel able to take on staff and volunteers through this time. We have combined this with our recruitment offer to further streamline the process of bringing new people into roles in social care. We have also put in place measures to help bring staff back into social care, for example social workers and nurses, to help boost numbers during this difficult period.

The NHS has also offered support on training to care homes, with infection control nurses “training the trainers” in care homes on the recommended approach to infection prevention control, personal protection equipment (PPE) usage and testing advice.

We have brought the rights to the Care branding into the department, enabling us to work with supermarkets and others to help ensure people within social care have access to, for example, the changed opening hours available to NHS workers. We have also ensured social care staff can access mental health and wellbeing support lines to help them gain access to support. In addition we have also launched the Care app, to help bring together the wellbeing, appreciation and incentive offers.

### **Future activity**

To build upon the activities the Department has delivered, we will continue to:

- work with our partners to assess and monitor trends in social care demand, jobs growth and vacancy levels to inform our delivery;
- continue to support innovative use of technology to increase recruitment into the sector, by building on the successes and lessons of our national recruitment campaign; and
- review the sector learning and skills framework and developing an assessment of leadership offer for the sector.

To ensure we build upon the support provided to the sector during the COVID-19 response, we will also continue to review our offer to the sector to ensure support for employers and people working in social care. We will look to not only to help providers recruit the people they need, but to also encourage more people to stay in social care. This will include:

- ensuring that care workers receive the right level of financial support through the next stages of the COVID-19 response, and ensure workforce pay is factored into forward looking work to strengthen the sector moving forwards;

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-adult-social-care-action-plan/covid-19-our-action-plan-for-adult-social-care#supporting-the-workforce>

- continuing to look at incentives for workers in social care, including through the use of the Care branding and app to access further benefits; and
- embedding and further developing the recognition and wellbeing initiatives developed through the COVID-19 response to help build a distinct identity for workers in the sector, ensuring people are recognised for the services they provide and supported with their wellbeing.

## COVID-19 Funding

The Government's number one priority for adult social care is for everyone who relies on care to get the care they need throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. On 13 March, the Government set out guidance on how local authorities, the NHS and care providers could work together to manage the impact of Covid-19 for people in residential care, supported living arrangements and reliant on home care. On 15 April 2020, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) adult social care action plan was published and, a month later, the Government brought forwards its Care Home Support Package, supported by a ringfenced £600m Infection Control Fund to assist social care providers more directly, announced in May. In addition, the Government has provided £3.2 billion to local authorities to tackle the pandemic across all service areas, including social care.

The Government has also provided £1.3 billion funding via the NHS to support the discharge process, used to support timely and appropriate discharge from hospital. It covers the follow-on care costs for adults in social care, or people in need of additional support, when they are out of hospital and back in their homes, community settings, or care settings. It can also cover the costs of providing alternative accommodation to quarantine and isolate care home residents, where needed, before returning to their care home from hospital.

All of this funding is part of the Government's commitment to ensure the NHS and social care system, and other public services, have all the resources they need during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Government continues to monitor pressures in the NHS and local government and will keep future funding under review.

We understand that COVID-19 presents long term challenges to the care sector and we continue to work closely with local authorities, social care providers, and key stakeholders from the sector to monitor the impacts this might have in the future.

**July 2020**