

Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee – 22 September 2009

POC Members' comments arising from a discussion of the Green Paper 'Shaping the Future of Care Together'

1. Taxation has an important role to play in funding, as the government encourages people to work longer into old age, and state and company pensions both dwindle in real value.
2. Insurance premiums will go up, making this option expensive for people. Policies may not cover the care that people want them to cover, or the type of care they end up needing.
3. Some people are not keen on insurance-funded schemes. They budget and pay in for years and then receive the same care as someone who has not saved. This seems very unfair to them.
4. I think some of the money paid into insurance policies should be ring-fenced so people can spend this part of it how they wish.
5. I think Fair Charging should be added to the list of 6 options, to go with Fair Funding.
6. I am very pleased that this issue will be debated at full Council.
7. People pay insurance for things all their lives and the idea is that this is in case they might need to claim something one day.
8. When comparing the merits of national and local schemes, we must bear in mind that, in some geographic areas, services are more expensive to deliver, so a blanket funding allocation will not work.
9. Something missing from the issues listed is the role of local authorities in service delivery as well as in commissioning and assessment. Local authorities should be involved in the delivery of services.
10. We have to consider if we can afford what is proposed. The working population is very small, compared to the non-working population, but we must remember that it isn't just the working population paying tax! Plenty of public money has been found to bail out banks. The question of raising taxes versus cutting services is a very hot issue.
11. I don't believe that all older people will need to turn to the state to access care. Previously the very elderly were poor but now many of them are quite well off.
12. We know people are accessing care differently, and different types of care. Take up of Domiciliary Care and entry into residential homes are both declining.

13. There's nothing to stop people paying for themselves without needing state assistance.
14. I don't believe people will want to pay for their care (via Insurance policies) in advance of needing it.
15. I am not sure the Green Paper takes us forward. I don't believe the questions it asks are the right ones to ask, as they assume everyone will rely on the state to organise and provide care. I believe we should all look after ourselves.
16. The flow of reasoning in the Green Paper's questions contradicts itself. 'Paying for yourself' seems to be ruled out, but the next section lists ways in which you can pay for yourself!
17. I cannot comment on 'partnership' issues as I don't understand what is meant when this is mentioned.
18. Good joined-up services need good joined-up funding, and this will be a challenge. Could there be one common assessment form?
19. The Green Paper draws us towards the National Care Service, but I am not sure this is the right way to go. We do need some change. Joint working will bring savings and make social care affordable, so we should develop joint working to provide services.