



Care and Support Funding Reform- Government Responds to Dilnot

The Government has finally announced that they are to begin to implement a new funding model for adult social care, based on the recommendations of the Dilnot Commission's report published in July 2011.

The Commission was asked to recommend a fair and sustainable funding system for Adult Social Care in England. This is in the context of years of under-investment in care services, the growing challenge of an ageing population, and the on - going cuts in public spending.

The key messages and recommendations from the Report were:

- To share the costs of care between the individual and the State by introducing a social care insurance model
- To introduce a nationwide system with a national framework for assessments and eligibility criteria, and a degree of portability between different LA areas (to do away with the post-code lottery)
- They recommended that the means test threshold for residential care should be raised to £100,000 (the present threshold is £23,250). The amount would include the value of your home and other assets
- A £35,000 cap on the individual's contribution to their care costs, in their lifetime. After the cap was reached, individuals would be eligible to full state support
- Free care for those who require care and support needs before 40 years

Macc's response to the Dilnot Report was to recognise that the current social care system was under-funded, unfair and unsustainable and had not kept pace with demographic changes and we welcomed the recommendations from the



Commission if the government was going to act quickly in their response.....

Concerns raised by members of the Greater Manchester Older Peoples Reference group included:

- They supported the idea of eligibility criteria being set at a national level to introduce a fairer system, but supported the Law Commission's recommendation that this level included 'low level support'
- They welcomed the idea of a cap on personal expenditure on social care, but, along with Macc, would still argue that the artificial distinction between nursing and personal care should be resolved once and for all!
- The care of people should not be dictated by 'market forces'
- Prevention and the promotion of well-being should be further up the agenda and backed by planning and investment

On Monday 11 February this year the Government published details about how they will 'interpret' and implement the recommendations of the Dilnot Commission. This is an important step but does not resolve all the concerns around the funding and delivery of social care.

The three main changes are:

- The means-test threshold for people entering residential/nursing home care will be raised from £23,250 to £123,000 but not until April 2017. As before, this financial assessment will consider both the individual's income and assets. If you have less than £14,250 in capital and savings, these are disregarded and the Local Authority will meet the full costs of your care
- Dilnot recommended a cap on what older people could pay in their lifetime for social care and support of £35,000. In April 2017 the Government will introduce a cap of £75,000 (personal care and 'basic nursing'). This does not cover accommodation and food costs (known as 'hotel costs') but will apply to the care that people receive in their own home or residential/nursing home care



- 'Hotel Costs' in care homes will be limited to £12,000 a year for everyone

For more detail about the Government plans visit the Department of Health, visit:

www.dh.gov.uk/health/2013/02/funding-socialcare/

For more information about Social Care visit Age UK:

www.ageuk.org.uk/home-and-care/social-care-how-much-do-you-really-know/

Macc has had a longstanding interest in long-term care and the artificial divisions between health and social care. The Older Peoples groups supported by Macc have campaigned to improve the social care and support systems since 1999. This has included a focus on how 'social care' is funded. We continue the fight!

For more information about the campaign and the Older Peoples Reference group contact: Mary Duncan, on 0161 834 9823, or email: mary@macc.org.uk