

POLICY BRIEF

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

22 September 2021



The information within this Brief is correct at the time of approval for publication and contains relevant recent announcements made by Government and its departments and regulators.

GOVERNMENT POLICY, LEGISLATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

Department of Health and Social Care (07/09/2021) [Record £36 billion investment to reform NHS and Social Care](#). The Prime Minister has set out [plans](#) to tackle the Covid backlogs, reform adult social care, and bring the health and social care system closer together on a long term, sustainable footing.

From April 2022, the government will introduce a new, UK-wide 1.25 per cent Health and Social Care Levy, ringfenced for health and social care. This will be based on National Insurance contributions (NICs) and from 2023 will be legislatively separate.

A cap will be introduced on care costs from October 2023 of £86,000 over a person's lifetime. All people with assets worth less than £20,000 will then have their care fully covered by the state, and those who have between £20,000 and £100,000 in assets will see their care costs subsidised.

The government will set out a detailed plan later in the autumn to enable Local Authorities and other providers to invest in technology, innovative methods of care and in their workforce.

Department of Health and Social Care (06/09/2021) [Additional £5.4 billion for NHS COVID-19 response over next 6 months](#). The NHS will receive an extra £5.4 billion over the next 6 months to support its response to COVID-19 and help tackle waiting lists. The funding will immediately go towards supporting the NHS to manage the immediate pressures of the pandemic. This includes an extra £1 billion to help tackle the COVID-19 backlog, £2.8 billion to cover related costs such as enhanced infection control measures to keep staff and patients safe from the virus and £478 million to continue the hospital discharge programme, freeing up beds.

Department of Health and Social Care (06/09/2021) [Prospective parents given more choice over when to start a family](#). People across the UK will have more choice over when to start a family as the government sets out plans to increase the storage limits for eggs, sperm and embryos. Proposals will be introduced to increase the statutory storage limits for everyone from the current 10 years, to a 10 year renewable storage period up to a maximum of 55 years.

Department of Health and Social Care (03/09/2021) [New body to tackle health disparities will launch 1 October, co-headed by new Deputy Chief Medical Officer](#). The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) will officially launch on 1 October with the aim of tackling health inequalities across the country. It will be co-led by newly appointed Deputy Chief Medical Officer (DCMO), Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy.

Department of Health and Social Care (01/09/2021) [Health Secretary and DCMO statements on JCVI advice on third jabs](#). The government accepts JCVI's advice to offer a third COVID-19 vaccine to people with severely weakened immune systems.

Department of Health and Social Care (31/08/2021) [Veterans' mental health services to receive £2.7 million boost](#). Armed forces veterans will benefit from extra support including extra mental health services thanks to a further £2.7 million funding. Support will be tailored to those

dealing with complex mental or physical trauma or alcohol and substance misuse. The additional support will be rolled out through Op COURAGE, the Veterans' Mental Health and Wellbeing Service.

Department for Work and Pensions (28/07/2021) [New National Disability Strategy launches.](#) More accessible housing, easier commuting and better job prospects are set to become reality for millions of disabled people in the UK through actions set out in the government's National Disability Strategy. The strategy sets out 100 immediate commitments supported by £1.6bn of funding alongside an ambitious agenda for future reform.

RECENT CONSULTATIONS AND SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRIES

| Date of publication | Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee |  GOV |
|---------------------|--|---|
| 20 July 2021 | Department of Work and Pensions: Shaping future support: the health and disability green paper - this green paper considers the options for addressing some of the short- to medium-term issues in health and disability benefits. | Closes 11 October 2021 |