

Westminster Health Forum policy conference:

Next steps for adult social care in England

Morning, Thursday, 26th November 2026

Taking place online



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Assessing key issues for adult social care reform and priorities for the sector in England**
Professor Martin Green, CEO, Care England
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **The role of unpaid carers in the future model of adult social care - integration, priorities for support and service design**
Emily Holzhausen, Director, Policy and Public Affairs, Carers UK
- 9.40 **Building a sustainable adult social care workforce - implementing pay reform and improving recruitment and retention**
establishment and operation of the Adult Social Care Negotiating Body | developing a Fair Pay Agreement | funding and affordability, including the £500m allocation for 2028-29 and implications for commissioning and provider sustainability | addressing low pay, insecure employment and workforce pressures | reducing reliance on international recruitment and developing a homegrown workforce | implications of proposed settlement changes for internationally recruited staff already working in the sector | supporting skills development, career pathways and professional recognition, including the Care Workforce Pathway | implications of pay reform for employers, commissioners and providers across different care settings
Senior representative, union
Senior representative, innovation
Senior representative, private sector
Senior representative, local government
Senior representative, skills
- 10.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 **Regulation, quality and accountability - considerations for adult social care oversight and technology adoption**
Senior representative, regulation
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.25 **Integrating lived experience into adult social care reform - priorities for personalised and responsive services**
Senior representative, service users
- 11.35 **National Care Service design, funding and implementation - key considerations for a reformed social care system**
long-term approaches to building a sustainable care system | implications of the accelerated Independent Commission on Adult Social Care and the October Budget for reform and funding decisions | practicalities of National Care Service development | building public consensus and the role of the Big Conversation on Care | funding and investment requirements for potential service models | future commissioning models and addressing variation in access between areas | developing preventative, personalised and community-based services | responding to rising complexity of need and demographic change | coordination between adult social care, NHS services and neighbourhood health teams, including local plans from 2027-28 | the future of the Better Care Fund and pooled funding arrangements | NHS Continuing Healthcare, assessment and discharge pathways | pressures at health and social care boundaries | digital infrastructure, interoperability, shared care records and information governance in supporting coordinated care
Senior representative, provider
Senior representative, NHS
Senior representative, research
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, workforce
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for adult social care in England - priorities for building a sustainable and person-centred system**
Layla Moran MP, Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Health Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Tess Mitchell-Thomas, Westminster Health Forum