



# Adult social care

## Academy statement

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and its members call on the next government to recognise that social care is as vital as the NHS to the health and wellbeing of people and the country as a whole.

Adult social care matters to us all, whether we are older, disabled, caring for someone now, or might need care and support in the future.

Adult social care sits alongside the NHS at the heart of our health and care services, keeping people safe, supported and involved in their communities. However, adult social care should not be solely defined by its relationship with the NHS. It is much more than that – it enables people to live their lives.

Successive governments have promised but ultimately not delivered 'reform' and failed to properly prioritise adult social care. So, the next government must recognise:

- i. The mutually dependent and supportive nature of the relationship between the NHS and social care.
- ii. That social care has a vital role to play as part of the prevention agenda and in addressing the wider determinants of health and wellbeing.

In practice, this means we need the next Government to:

- See the whole of adult social care, not just selected parts of it, no matter where it is delivered or how it is experienced.
- Equally prioritise support for older people, disabled people, carers and other people who need care and support.
- Invest in high quality home and community-based care and support.

- Increase funding for social care and protect local authority budgets so that councils can prioritise social care, public health and related support.
- Fully fund pay parity with the NHS to boost recruitment and retention of social care professionals.
- Enhance financial and practical support for carers.
- Continue to invest in the integration of public services to provide holistic care and support to those who need it.

We must ensure that all of us have the certainty that the care and support we want for ourselves and our families, will be there, when we need it.

It is time to end the under resourcing of social care. Successive governments have patched it up to keep it going but have not made the investment needed to make it sustainable. They have promised to 'reform adult social care' and to 'sort social care, once and for all'. Yet, all have ultimately failed to fully deliver on that promise. We need the next Government to break that cycle.