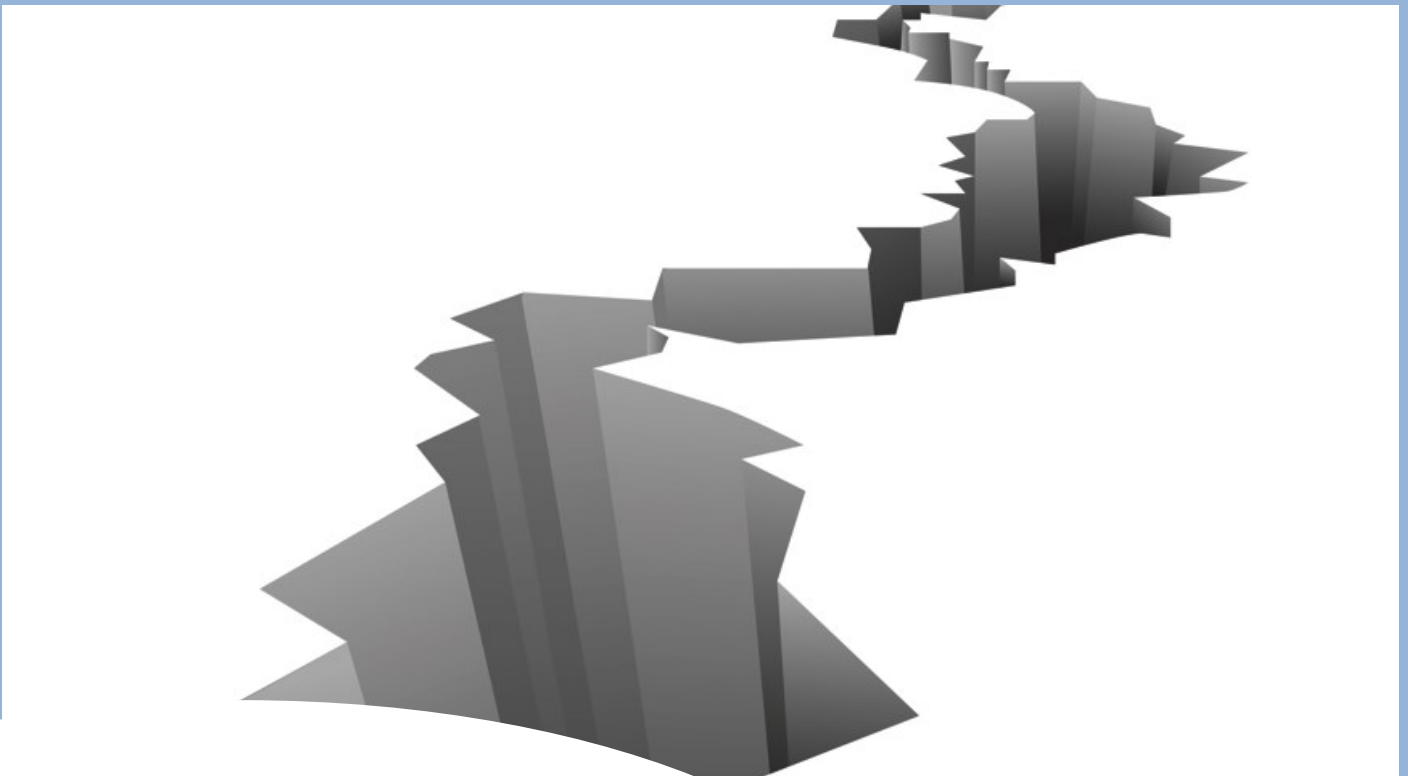


mind the gap

RESTRICTED CIRCULATION

CARE SUMMIT—SUMMARY BRIEFING - 25 OCTOBER 2016



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National Care Association is the most respected independent voice of independent health and social care providers in the country. Our primary membership consists of small and medium sized care providers and supply partners who work with them. The association is the most established of the provider organisations having been founded in 1980. We work, on behalf of our membership, with local and national government to promote quality care services to some of the most vulnerable members of our society.



Nadra Ahmed OBE
Executive Chairman



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Investment in
Social Care is an
investment for
our Future

National Care Association (NCA) is taking the concerns of small and medium sized care providers to the very heart of government. The NCA is highlighting the sector's urgent concerns for the sustainability of long-term care for some of the most vulnerable members of our society, which is a direct response to the overwhelming demand for a more accessible national care provision. The National Care Association is calling for a clearer recognition of the essential role played by small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) who, as care home providers, are not only the backbone of NHS care provision but will also be the economic engine that will provide growth for the future provision of those who will need care and support.

NCA Chairman Nadra Ahmed OBE says: *'There is a real opportunity to unite care providers and sector investors with government policy-makers and regulators to explore the future of national care provision, with particular emphasis on innovative solutions for new business models in partnerships between Government and Providers. At a time of turbulence in public services, it is essential for our country to demonstrate that, as a society, we recognise the value of essential care and support services for the frailest and most vulnerable members of our community, and – critically – that we create a progressive road-map for users and providers alike to ensure sustainable and successful continuity of our care home sector. It is essential that we close the gap and ensure that we get social care provision back on track.*

'Sadly, the systematic underfunding of social care by national and local government is creating instability and commentators are alluding to the collapse of the independent social care market, which could, in turn, mean that thousands of vulnerable people will struggle to access care and support at a time when they are the most in need. Our challenge is to ensure that this does not happen – we have to be the voice of those who cannot speak out for themselves. Social Care remains at the heart of the NHS; without it we know that the NHS would be unsustainable. Ironically, public perception of social care provision is warped by a media that persists in branding independent care providers with failings associated with the pressures of demand on an increasingly beleaguered NHS. We believe that it is time independent social care providers should not only be heard but valued for their contribution to the wider community and the public we serve.'

At a glance guide
to the funding
gap



Councils will have to save £941 million from their 2016/17 adult social care budgets, but costs are rising and more people need care and support. Only 31% (three in ten) directors of adult social services are fully confident they can achieve these savings, falling rapidly to just 8% who think they can do so in the following year.



Social care is under increasing financial pressure. 65% of directors of adult social services confirm providers in their areas have been forced to close in the past six months. The latest available figures indicate that around 20% of councils in England with adult social care responsibilities had residential or nursing care contracts handed back to them in the six months up to May 2016, a persistent trend that, were it to be projected for all of England's care homes could equate to the loss of 40,000 beds in the independent social care market by 2020.



Statistics show that 90% of residential and nursing care services are now delivered by independent providers. The predicted shrinkage would see residents forced into the NHS's local general hospitals, who themselves are already under substantial pressure and who will see their own budgets being challenged by an estimated £3bn per year between now 2020.



The new council tax precept for social care will raise £380 million this year, whilst the estimated cost to councils of fully meeting the National Living Wage is £612 million.

To conclude

Recently, although the chairman of the NHS Confederation emphatically stated that Britain should stop 'fetishising' the NHS budget, he expressed a strong view that this political mantra of protecting the NHS deplorably persists. He believes

it is a policy that actually damages the health service because hospitals are used as an expensive way to look after the elderly. He goes on to say that starving councils of money for social care for the elderly should be branded 'insane economics and bad social policy' and government should give more taxpayers' money to councils to close the funding gap.

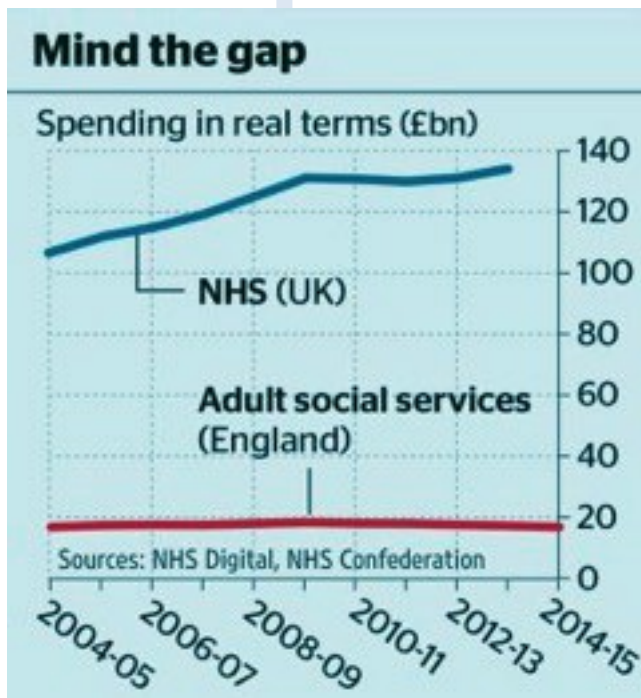
A National Service for Care is the new reality.

The funding gap and the challenge of the workforce are two of the most important issues for the sector to consider but neither issue is exclusive of the other! We are yet to feel the full impact of the Brexit decision, but early indicators are that the UK does

not have the same draw for unskilled workers as it once did. The falling value of the pound will lessen the desire to leave family behind whilst potential care workers come to fill the roles we are not able to recruit to. In reality they have taken a 15% cut in earning as the pound continues to slip.

Despite these challenges, we must consider the opportunities a growing market will present. As the need to care for more people with complex health and social care needs grows we must ensure that we start to look at **creating confidence** in a sector that has faced substantial criticism over the past decade.

Providers have consistently met the challenges of innovating, developing and meeting the needs of individuals once cared for by our National Health Service. Ipso facto, the social care sector is now the National Service for Care and should be recognised as such. We, the providers, now do everything that was originally remitted to the Health Service, without the substantial funding, management tiers or recognition.



It's vital to acknowledge that the need for social care is going to increase not decrease. With this in mind we must ensure that we:

- Support a positive image of social care and work together to eradicate poor care in any setting, be it health or social care.
- Recognise the professionalisation of the social care workforce and providers.
- Create sustainable pathways to an integrated model of care that supports individuals whose needs have been assessed.
- Use excellence of service as the model we all subscribe to and which is achievable and sustainable for care providers in the best interest of the people we care for.