

Report briefing - Stabilise, Energise, Realise: a long term plan for social care (September 2021)

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1. Key Messages

- ***Stabilise, Energise, Realise*** is a constructive and pragmatic **new report that provides a ten-year plan for social care reform across three phrases**. This plan is backed up by 30 recommendations to Government and other relevant organisations across 7 key areas.
- The report focusses on **delivering personalised care that: offers choice and control, responds to changing needs, actively seeks feedback, and supports people to maintain their independence**.
- Once immediate action is taken to **stabilise** social care following the impact of the pandemic, a cap on care costs, support for the workforce, and public, user, and workforce engagement will help **energise** the sector. From there, personalised care can begin to be delivered, accompanied by capital investment, the utilisation of technology and data, and enhanced support for carers. Better paid, better skilled, more valued staff will help to **realise** the plan, offering personalised care funded on an equal basis as the NHS.

2. The social care context

In September 2021, Alzheimer's Society launched 'Stabilise, Energise, Realise: a long term plan for social care'.¹ Building on Alzheimer's Society's **#CuretheCareSystem** campaign, which sees a better, brighter future for social care, the report lays out a ten-year social care plan across three phases, namely stabilise, energise and realise.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on people affected by dementia and their carers, so it's vital that its legacy is a **properly reformed social care system**. The Stabilise, Energise, Realise report takes a constructive, stepped approach that is backed up by 30 recommendations across **seven key areas: funding, workforce, public engagement and information, quality, integration, carers, and new technology and investment**. These recommendations would help deliver a social care system we can all be proud of over the next ten years.

The report was informed by a series of round table events with experts across social care, as well as by interviews with people affected by dementia, with a particular focus on delivering personalised care that offers choice and control and that's tailored to people's wants and needs.

3. Social Care Reform: A Long Term Plan

In 2019, through its NHS Long Term Plan, the Government recognised the need for the NHS to transform itself over the next decade to meet rising and changing demand. Over £30bn of extra funding was committed over the first half of the plan to deliver this transformation.² **Following the pandemic and many years of inaction, an equivalent settlement is now required for social care.**

¹ Alzheimer's Society. Stabilise, Energise, Realise: a long term plan for social care. 2021. <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-08/stabilise-energise-realise-report.pdf>.

² NHS. The NHS Long Term Plan. 2019. <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/publication/nhs-long-term-plan/>.

Alzheimer's Society welcomes the announcements made by the Prime Minister on health and social care reform in September 2021, and looks forward to engaging with Parliamentarians on the Government's plan. However, the Health and Social Care Levy Bill, which attends only to how social care is funded, is just the first step in reforming the system as a whole: **the Government must now establish a clear timetable on how the provision and experience of social care itself will be reformed.**

Stabilise, Energise, Realise sets out seven key areas where action is needed with the aim of ensuring that social care looks radically different in the 2030s compared to how it looks today. The overriding approach within the plan is to deliver more personalised care that offers choice and control, that responds to changing needs, that actively seeks feedback, and that encourages people to maintain their independence. Social care should also recognise the importance of relationships to health and wellbeing, and improve people's experiences of living well.

The report's recommendations will be delivered across three phases, as outlined in the graphic below. The immediate priority is to **stabilise** social care after the pandemic and put it on a more secure footing for the future, then to **energise** the sector through additional funding to deliver free personalised care, accompanied by a range of other reforms centred around housing, technology, and the workforce. Local communities should also start taking a prominent role through asset-based approaches to social care. During the second half of the ten-year plan, changes achieved by re-designing the system will be **realised** and locked in.

