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BUILDING A NATIONAL CARE SERVICE

White Paper proposes fundamental reform of the care and support system for all adults in England

The Centre for Policy on Ageing applauds the government's aspirations for a fair system of care and support freely available to all adults assessed to be in need. Delivering the Personal Care at Home Bill and proposals to cap the costs of residential care after two years will provide significant help to many older people in the future.

The principles defining a National Care Service provide a firm framework for taking forward the transformation of social care – supporting all adults with care and support needs within a framework of national entitlements; free at the point of use; working in partnership; ensuring choice and control; supporting family, carers and community life and being accessible.

Gillian Crosby, the Centre's Director said 'This is a momentous occasion despite the current uncertainties. The government has boldly proposed far reaching changes to a social care system that is currently perceived to be unfair and unsustainable. How to fund a new system remains a contentious issue. The political parties must come together to resolve their differences and face up to the challenges of providing a funding solution that is fair and sustainable. The forthcoming election provides an opportunity to ensure providing good social care is placed on a par with health care.'

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