



**FUTURE
CARE
CAPITAL**

General Election 2017 Key Recommendations

The General Election presents an opportunity for all political parties to set out a renewed focus on health and adult social care. It is important that health and adult social care services are given prominence in all manifestos as it is a high priority for the public.

It is recognised across the board that our National Health Service has a range of strategic plans already in place that look at the future of health provision over the next five years. Wider than the Five Year Forward View and the action plans associated with it, Future Care Capital has identified several practical steps aimed at enhancing outcomes for the public.

Adult social care is a pressing concern for many people across the country. The public policy response in the next five years is crucial if we are going to have a system that will address the priorities of current and future generations across the country.

About us

Future Care Capital (FCC), originally founded in 1945, with a long history in health and care education, is committed to delivering new thinking on health and care. FCC is an independent voice developing research and policy ideas on how health and care services can be delivered in the future. Read our 2030 Vision here: <https://futurecarecapital.org.uk/>

Short-term recommendations

Appoint an independent health and care commissioner

Future Care Capital focuses on the unification of health and care. We want all political parties to look at how, by driving alignment in the provision of health and care services, the next government can deliver the right level of support fit for current and future generations. This can be achieved through the appointment of a health and care commissioner, who would work with NHS England, Department of health, local authorities, and our recommendation for a commission on innovation in health and care. A new commissioner can help coordinate the next governments action plan for a future unified response to health and care that addresses public need.

Championing community-led health and care solutions

Future Care Capital believes there is a pressing need to nurture community-led health and care initiatives, so that people who wish to live independent lives can better access the support they need. We would therefore welcome the creation of a new civil society fund to stimulate and grow pioneering and sustainable community-led solutions through locally controlled 'community health and care budgets'. This fund would complement existing local health and care budgets, and be incentivised and targeted in a manner such that is cost neutral.

Caring for carers

Informal carers make a valuable contribution that the next government should consider recognising more formally across the country. The number of people caring for a friend or family member is set to increase significantly due to our ageing population, and the situation is exacerbated by the increase in long-term health conditions. Future Care Capital wants to ensure that all carers receive the support they need to maintain a work-life-care balance. We are calling for the next government to establish a national 'resilience and respite' programme to nurture and care for carers.

A unified response to behavioural health

Health is everyone's responsibility and we would like to see a continued commitment to enhancing education in this area by the next government. This could be achieved by equipping young people in schools to identify and manage physical and mental health issues through the national curriculum.

Long-term recommendations

A Care Covenant

The Five Year Forward View will come to an end in 2020, we need to plan ahead and deliver against a challenging backdrop of growing demand and expectation. We urge the next government to encourage a national debate to explore a new Care Covenant, setting out individual rights and responsibilities in respect of health and care that are pertinent to the demands of the 21st century.

The world leader in data-driven health and care

Governments around the world are investing in the fourth industrial revolution to reap the rewards of a future competitive advantage and the United Kingdom is no exception. We believe the United Kingdom has the potential to become the world leader in data-driven health and care, and would like to see the next government introduce forward-thinking measures to leverage the investment and talent needed to create a new flagship innovation hub.

A new commission for innovation in health and care reporting across Whitehall

The route to delivering an enhanced strategic plan for technology in health and care should be on a cross-party basis, including the appointment of representatives, from across all sectors, with an expertise in this area. The commission should set out an ambitious programme for the transformation and use of technology across the health and care. Now is the time to further deploy new and emergent technologies to improve patient outcomes and drive efficiency in the care system.

Planning and designing for age

There is growing recognition of the need to improve service planning and design to better meet the needs of different generations. Inevitably, these services are impacted by changing demographics, socio-economic circumstances, drug and treatment advancements. There is a pressing need to ensure our built environment responds to meet the needs of people living with disabilities and long-term conditions. The next government should therefore consider the introduction of 'planning and designing for age' provisions to deliver the right mix of built environments that meet the needs of an ageing population.

Creating career ladders for the caring profession

The recruitment and retention of care staff is a growing national priority. In order to address the gap in the care workforce and to recognise the valuable contribution that professionals in this sector make, we would welcome the introduction of a new care career ladder. This will enable workers from across allied health professions to enrol on higher level care qualifications. This could include high quality apprenticeships, achieving the dual objectives of sustainable health and care and developing the future care force.

Future Care Capital is committed to working with all political parties to deliver the right health and care services for our country. Our recommendations are designed to encourage a positive debate about the future and the potential for change that will benefit patients and improve the experience of health and care services for all. We look forward to expanding on our recommendations during the General Election campaign.