



COUNCIL MEETING

18 July 2019

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Donovan will move the following motion:

The Council notes that:

- there are nearly 16,000 people over 65 in Gateshead
- that during 2018-19 there were over 2600 people receiving Adult Social Care service during 2018-19
- in 2018-19 the Council spent over £66 million (net) on Adult Social Care Services and a further £3.1 million on supported housing and prevention services
- since 2010 the Council has made savings of £38 million on Adult Social Care, despite rising costs of care and rising demand for services

This Council also notes that many residents are struggling with unmet care needs and believes that in light of an ageing population we need bold changes to deliver a long-term funding solution for social care.

The Council believes that England's care system needs major reform to provide a long-term sustainable funding solution and to make care free at the point of use. This Council believes there is an unacceptable gap between NHS care which is free at the point of delivery, and social care which is means tested – closing the gap by making social care free would make it easier to integrate the delivery of health and social care services.

The Council also believes that it is fundamentally unfair that to access basic care many older people face catastrophic costs that can run into hundreds of thousands of pounds, wipe out a lifetime of savings, and force families to sell their homes. The Council therefore supports Independent Age's call for the introduction of free personal care for all older people in England, learning from practice in Scotland, and calls upon the Government to fully fund the introduction of free personal care.

This Council is proud of the work of its social care team and NHS representative bodies in integrating health and care planning and ensuring that there is no purchaser/provider split in Gateshead with outcomes focused strategic planning. Nevertheless, this Council calls upon the Government to build a National Care Service alongside the National Health Service, with a shared requirement for single commissioning, partnership arrangements, pooled budgets and joint working arrangements.

The Council calls on the Government to take the necessary steps to implement this policy as swiftly as possible to end the care crisis and properly support older people in Gateshead.

The Council also calls on our local MPs to support the campaign for free personal care, and to speak up in favour of the policy in the House of Commons and through their wider engagements.

Proposed by: Councillor C Donovan

Seconded by: Councillor J McElroy

Supported by: Councillor J Adams
Councillor M McNestry