

## Dealing with the social care funding crisis: consultation is launched

---

The funding crisis in Social Care was first highlighted in 2006, when the Kings Fund published 'Securing Good Care for Older People: Taking a long-term view' by Sir Derek Wanless. The report showed how increases over the next twenty years in the numbers of people aged over 65+, and in particular those aged 85+, will require spending nine times more than current spending on long-term care. A major concern is the rise in dementia among this group and the strain that will put upon the public purse. Dennis Campbell, Health Correspondent for The Guardian reminds us that by 2026 the total care bill for those with dementia will increase by 135% - from £14.8bn to £34.8bn. (see: [www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/may/25/longtermcare.health](http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/may/25/longtermcare.health))

As part of the latest move to deal with the crisis, Gordon Brown's speech at the Kings Fund in May launched a six-month consultation on reforming the current care and support system – which will lead to a Green Paper early next year. Discussions will draw on the need for independence, choice and control; funding issues and the aim to create better collaboration between health and social care. Talks will also address the current framework for delivering social care which is seen as unfair, complex and inadequately funded. (See [www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/may/13/longtermcare.socialcare](http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/may/13/longtermcare.socialcare))

While a wide range of alternative options will be put forward over the coming months, it is certain that it will be necessary to keep pace with the demands of an aging population. See Polly Toynbee's article [www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/may/13/longtermcare.socialcare](http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/may/13/longtermcare.socialcare) and David Brindle's [www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/may/14/socialcare.society](http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/may/14/socialcare.society) for some of the options. David Roger, chair of the Local Government Association Community Wellbeing Board recently stated:

*"Social care budget increases have not kept pace with demographic changes, forcing councils to withdraw services for people with low and moderate needs, such as help with the cleaning and bathing".*

These developments show the crucial need to understand the scale of future need for social care. Never before has it been so important for local authorities to have an accurate picture of the local level and distribution of need, and how it is likely to change.

.....

**Planning4care** is a web-based analysis tool that provides essential analysis for policy makers and commissioners on current and future requirements of social care in all local areas. It provides:

- Whole population analysis of social care needs of older people
- Local area analysis, including geographical mapping of needs and current service take-up
- Exploration of alternative care and cost scenarios
- National and regional comparators

You can register for access to the full web-based tool at [www.planning4care.org.uk/register](http://www.planning4care.org.uk/register)