

Health and care funding policy statement

Universal access to healthcare is a human right. Health and social care should be free at the point of use. Universal health and social care should be funded from the public purse. This is the fairest, and most efficient, way of paying for care.

We recognise the valuable role non-NHS services play. They play an important role in areas including:

- social care
- hospices and palliative care
- supporting our armed forces and veterans
- occupational health
- enhancing NHS capacity
- sport and exercise.

Where such services are providing care as part of the universal healthcare system, they should be funded by the public purse and free at the point of use.

Both health and social care need long term extra funding to meet population needs. The CSP will judge how much more is needed based on the expert assessments by independent research bodies.

Investment should be clearly linked to creating a better system, not just keeping the current system going. Investment in social care should be the top priority, with prevention and transformation funding also high priorities.

Funds for health and social care should be raised fairly. Income tax should continue to fund the bulk of NHS costs and a growing share of social care costs. There is also scope for more efficiency to release resources for reinvestment.

We do not support ring-fencing of budgets in social care and public health. This can limit the scope to address the social determinants of poor health locally.

Nor do we back a commission on healthcare funding. We are clear that extra investment is needed across all four UK countries.

Agreed by Council 26 September 2018.