

This document presents our plans to rethink, redesign, and reorientate care through adopting the Social Care Future (SCF) vision to inspire and help shape local change.

SOCIAL CARE FUTURE

Our plans for a better future

Introduction

In 2020, Wokingham Borough Council published its [Adult Social Care \(ASC\) Strategy](#). This five-year plan set out our ambition for Wokingham Borough to be one of the best places for adults and carers in need of support to live, work, study and retire. A place where they feel safe, included, and a key part of our community.

Since 2020 we have been working hard towards this, while making sure our residents can achieve the outcomes that are important and personal to them.

However, over the last 24 months Adults Services has faced considerable challenges. Most notably, due to COVID-19, Brexit, workforce pressures and the ongoing Cost of Living Crisis.

As a result, this has presented an opportunity to rethink, redesign, and reorientate care. In doing so the Council has decided to adopt the vision of [Social Care Future](#), to inspire and help shape local change. The aim is for this work to take place alongside and complement the existing Adult Social Care strategy and the Council's approach to care and support.

Since Social Care Future launched their vision in November 2021 it has gained widespread support. It encapsulates succinctly a set of ideas, and values that have been developed with people who draw on care and support and which have been reflected in other documents over time. This includes the [Think Local Act Personal's \(TLAP\) Making it Real framework](#) as well as the [ADASS Time to Act](#).

Social Care Future champions a way of working that ensures the care and support that we want for ourselves and our families meets our needs and is fit for the future we want. We will strive to achieve this within the available budget and resources but realise that this will be challenging.

Purpose of this document

This document is for everyone but particularly people whose insight and expertise comes from drawing on social care, families, professionals, managers, support providers, user-led organisations, politicians, commissioners, voluntary and community groups and others.

The purpose of this document is to:

- provide an overview of the Social Care Future vision
- present our Social Care Future charter
- set out emerging local priorities and next steps
- invite people to take part on this journey with us

What is presented is not a rigid strategy or fixed set of activities. However, we have a number of priorities (mentioned below) to move towards a new, better future and hope to work closely with residents and our partners to plan our action.

This is the beginning of the journey and our Core Group will be reporting regularly to members. We hope the Core Group will be a true partnership of people who use services, external partners staff and Councillors, being non-political and working in partnership together. Our aspirations will be changing and developing as we see our wider local communities and their needs changing.

The aim when producing this document has been to ensure it is accessible and meaningful to anybody who reads it.

Overview of Social Care Future

Wokingham Borough Council fully appreciates the financial pressure that the sector is under and the exceptional challenges within Adult Social Care. Adult Social Care has been historically underfunded, with insufficient funding made available to meet demography and inflation. Successive governments have tried to reform the system but have not been able to do so. COVID-19 has highlighted the extent of this underinvestment - during lockdown it was recognised that many people who use services live in permanent lockdowns and experience inequality every day¹.

We want to change this. We've adopted the Social Care Future vision and responded to the movement's call to action, to create our own local movement to drive change in our borough. Drawing on learning from diverse social movements, and building on our work to date, this proposal sets out our plans for an initiative to ignite what we hope will be an unstoppable movement for

¹ <https://socialcarefuture.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/SCF-Glorious-Ordinary-Lives-f-1-1-2.pdf>

change, capable of mobilising public support to make our vision a reality. We must all unite and work together to do the best we can so that everyone can enjoy a ‘gloriously ordinary life²’ .

The Social Care Future vision is for:

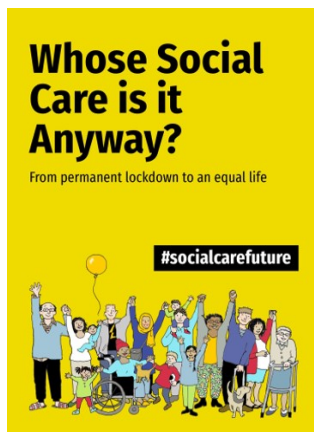
every person to live in a place they call home, with the people and things that they love, in communities where they look out for one another, doing things that matter to them.

People experience social care unequally, with some groups more likely to receive poorer care. The Social Care Future vision is about ensuring that everyone is included and change only happens in people’s lives with their say.

This vision calls for a big change in how public service resources are used alongside citizens and community assets.

Social Care Future has suggested 5 key changes to unlock an equal life and identify and challenge these unacceptable inequalities and to reduce them.

These are



1. Communities where everyone belongs
2. Living in the place we call home
3. Leading the lives we want to live
4. More resources, better used
5. Sharing power as equals

Social Care Future recognises the need for additional funding but appreciates that it is also about using existing money in ways that make a difference.

² A phrase developed by Tricia Nicoll as quoted by the House of Lords Adult Social Care Committee (2022) in its report ‘A “gloriously ordinary life”: Spotlight on adult social care’

A national Social Care Future Community of Support has been developed which Wokingham Borough Council have signed up to.

Locally we have a Core Group of all partners working across Adults Services including and people who use Adults Social Care support that meet together for practical and participant led sessions once a month.

The purpose of the Core Group is for members to explore their hopes for the network and contribute towards supporting an equal life for disabled and older people and to use the vision to steer local action.

Our charter developed by our local Social Care Future Core Group and people who use services, with input from a wide range of partners summarises how we want to deliver the vision locally.

What this means for people who use services in Wokingham Borough

We all want to live in the place we call home, with the people and things that we love, in communities where we look out for one another, doing the things that matter to us.

Sometimes, we, or people we care about may need some to work with others to achieve this, because of a health condition or disability. That's the role of social care.

When organised well, social care is about creating a web of support and relationships in our local communities that we can all draw on to live our lives the way we want to, with meaning, purpose and connection, whatever our age or stage in life.

Adopting the Social Care Future vision is a commitment to a shift away from a deficit-based, transactional approach to a more human, relational way of working alongside the individuals and communities we serve.

A shift from assessing 'service users' and providing services, to promoting wellbeing and supporting everyone in Wokingham Borough to live good lives.

What this means for Wokingham Borough Council

Social Care Future is not just an Adults Services initiative, the priorities identified require input from across the Council including transport, housing, and planning.

In addition, our partners in Health, independent care providers and the Voluntary and Community Sector are fundamental in this journey to work together and do social care differently to put control into the hands of people and communities, connecting people and resources together.

Wokingham Borough's Social Care Future Charter

Our Social Care Future Core Group and wider partners have together developed a charter that focuses on what matters to people and includes the core principles to enable us to deliver the Social Care Future vision.

Our ambition for the charter is to bring about positive change and improve access to services as well as the customer experience, ensure continuous improvement and provide high quality services to everyone in the borough.

OUR ADULT SOCIAL CARE FUTURE CHARTER



Our vision is that everyone in the Wokingham Borough should have the support, resources and opportunities to live in a place they call home, with the people and things that they love, in communities where we look out for one another, doing the things that matter most.

Sometimes, we or the people we care about, may need help to achieve this due to a health condition or disability. This is the role of social care.

Our movement is made up of people who share this vision, including people whose insight and expertise comes from drawing on social care and their families, people who work at Wokingham Borough Council, health services, support providers, voluntary and community groups.



Five Key Changes to Unlock a Gloriously Ordinary Life



1. Communities where everyone belongs



2. Living in the place we call home



3. Leading the lives we want to live



4. More resources, better used



5. Sharing power as equals

This is about all of us, and we want a social care future like that.

We Will Bring About Positive Change by:

1. Working together as equal partners
2. Treating everyone with honesty and fairness
3. Respecting the diversity of people
4. Including and listening to everyone
5. Building on people's strengths, their networks, and resources from the local community
6. Using clear, kind and easy to understand communication and information
7. Being open when things are difficult to do, and work out what we can do together
8. Focusing our efforts on what is important to people and make sure it is happening

I/we agree with the vision in this charter, and will bring positive change in line with the principles set out above

SIGNED:

DATE:

Some first asks

<p>People who draw on social care and families commit to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being guided by the Social Care Future vision • Taking up our local charter • Work with others to offer solutions • Challenge practice and behaviour • Look for every opportunity to take action 	<p>Statutory services and Council officers commit to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being guided by the Social Care Future vision • Committing to our local charter • Using these to shape local strategy and practice • Using best learning to inform practice • Join up services • Reducing bureaucracy and shifting power to people
<p>Local elected members commit to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being guided by the Social Care Future vision • Committing to our local charter • Raising awareness of this • Utilising all local resources to deliver Social Care Future 	<p>Providers of services including voluntary, community and faith-based organisations commit to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being guided by the Social Care Future vision • Committing to our local charter • Looking for every opportunity to help improve the life of those they work with • Challenging and offering better solutions in practice and behaviour

Next steps

Over the coming years the Core Group will be working together to:

- agree an outline structure, process and content
- progress towards the Social Care Future vision in the key areas identified by co-production with citizens.
- create a model to use the Social Care Future vision locally.
- share learning and experience.



How you can be involved

Our charter for local partners mentioned above requires a commitment to:

- Social Care Future vision to shape local practice
- Principles to deliver personalised care

We invite you to pledge your support and take part on this journey with us to help shape local change that is meaningful and improves the lives of the residents and communities that we serve.



Please email getinvolved@wokingham.gov.uk for more details.

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