

**Welsh Liberal
Democrats**



**Democratiaid
Rhyddfrydol Cymru**

MOTION AGREED AT AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2018

Funding of Social Care and Integration of Health and Social Care

Conference notes:

- A. The good news that we have all been living longer means that the current model for caring for vulnerable residents is no longer fit for purpose. Funding for social care is inadequate and the divide between health and social care is not sustainable, efficient or beneficial to those receiving care.
- B. County Councils are struggling to meet the rising costs of social care which are overwhelming budgets and failing to secure sufficient, quality care that residents deserve. Lack of funding means there are insufficient care homes and care for residents in their homes.
- C. Lack of social care is forcing vulnerable residents into hospitals which can slow down their recovery and put extra pressure on the NHS which is already buckling under the strain.
- D. The Welsh Government has announced its intention to integrate health and social care and is providing funding for some pilot projects. However, much more progress is needed.
- E. Whilst the integration of health and social care is essential for decent care, the ever rising costs of care present a major risk which, unless addressed, could overwhelm integrated care budgets. Integration therefore needs to be carried out alongside a comprehensive review of the longer-term sustainability of the health and social care finances and workforce. Successive UK Governments have so far failed to address this.
- F. The intense pressure that family carers can experience, and the need to support family carers, whose plight and suffering can go unnoticed. Long term carers are likely to be on heart medication or anti-depressants or both. Many family carers combine their caring duties with employment.

Conference believes:

- i. Everyone who requires care should be entitled to quality care, regardless of age when they need it.

- ii. Failure to tackle the reform of social care finance and the integration of health and social care budgets will condemn Wales to a second rate health and social care service unable to meet the future needs of patients and those in care.
- iii. Family carers are often the prime carers for people who are cared for in their own homes. Supporting these family carers is one important way of ensuring good social care for those in need.

Conference calls for:

1. The Welsh Government to address the integration of health and social care.
2. The UK Government as a matter of priority to establish a cross-party health and social care convention, bringing together stakeholders from all political parties and all 4 UK Governments / administrations, patients groups, the public, and professionals from within the health and social care system to carry out a comprehensive review of the longer-term sustainability of the health and social care finances and workforce, and the practicalities of greater integration.
3. The UK Government to establish a working group with employers to establish how best to support employees who find themselves, sometimes with little or no warning, in a significant and long-term caring role for a loved one.