



# Adult Social Care: Reform & Assurance Update

Scrutiny Committee – November 2021

# Plan for Health and Social Care, HM Govt 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021

- Plan includes additional funding to help NHS recover from Covid plus adult social care reforms.
- Total funding £36bn over the 3 years from 2022/23 for UK; notionally £5.4bn for adult social care in England.
- Funded by 1.25% increase in NI for employees and employers plus tax on dividends.
- White Paper on further adult social care reform promised; to be developed with local authorities, clients, providers and other key stakeholders.
- Risk that the general public has been given the impression that adult social care is “fixed”.
- Another short-term £5.4bn for the NHS this winter, of which £478m will fund an extended “Discharge to Assess” grant.



# Adult social care reforms



## Care “cap”

- From October 2023 an £86k “cap” on the maximum individuals (anyone over 18) will pay for their care during their lifetime.
- This is based on the Personal Budget: people may pay top-up care costs towards a more expensive service, but this will not count towards the “cap”
- Includes care costs but excludes “hotel costs”; once “cap” is reached people will not need to pay care costs, but still need to pay “hotel” costs.

## Other

- Upper capital assets threshold will increase from £23,250 to £100,000; lower threshold from £14,250 to £20,000.
- Those with less than £20,000 will still have to contribute from their income to the cost of care.
- Self-funders in residential and nursing homes will have the right to ask their local authority to arrange care at reduced rates: this will produce a cost pressure for providers and therefore for local authorities.
- £500m over 3 years for training, wellbeing and care staff recruitment support – likely to be managed nationally.



# Main unknowns/questions: reforms

- Levels of “hotel costs” and how these are calculated?
- Arrangements for counting costs towards the “cap”: national tool or local?
- Demand for assessments from self-funders unknown: modelling based on Dilnot estimates but these are six years old and pre-pandemic?
- Need for local authorities to prepare capacity and systems for assessments – and questions about whether there are the social workers available to recruit?
- Equalisation of self-funder and local authority rates will produce a significant but unknown cost pressure?



# Main unknowns/questions: funding

- Government intends to use £5.4bn to fund additional liabilities from care “cap”, increased capital thresholds and reduce income for care providers from self-funders rates.
- Expectation that the adult social care precept, Council tax and further efficiencies will be required to meet demographic and cost pressures.
- Not clear how much of the £36bn will actually reach local authorities or when.
- Considerable uncertainty about how much of £5.4bn will reach care providers and staff.
- And whether local authorities will be adequately funded for additional assessments as well as other new duties already planned: Liberty Protection Safeguards, Mental Health Act changes etc?
- Note that higher NI rates create a cost pressure for care providers and staff.

# **A new assurance framework for adult social care**



# A new assurance framework for adult social care

“ As social care affects a greater number of people at some point during their lives, accountability for services becomes increasingly important for both national and local government.

It is therefore only reasonable for government to want to ensure the ASC system is delivering the right kind of care, and the best outcomes, with the resources available. We also want to be able to readily identify best practice across the system, building on existing sector-led support and improvement programmes.

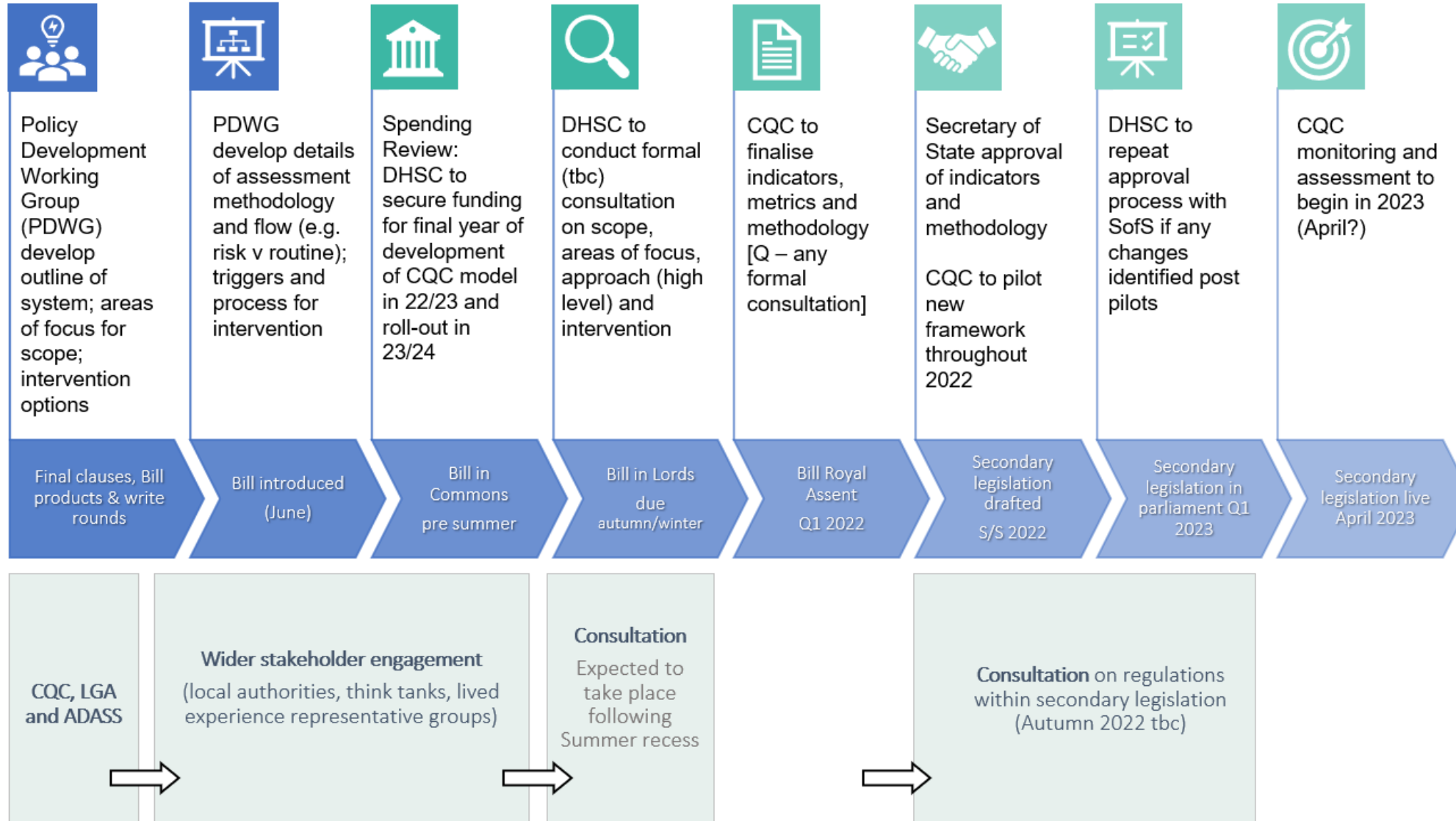
To achieve this, we want to work with local authorities and the sector to enhance existing assurance frameworks that will support our drive to improve the outcomes and experience of people and their families in accessing high quality care and support, regardless of where they live.

To support these goals, **we propose to introduce through the Health and Care Bill, a new duty for the Care Quality Commission to assess local authorities' delivery of their adult social care duties.** ”



# A new assurance framework for adult social care

Overview of Assurance Development April 2021 – April 2023





# ADASS proposing a self assessment framework comprised of 7 core areas

