

# London Councils

The voice of London local government

## Care Bill - Report stage

House of Commons - March 10-11, 2014

### New Clause 3 - Duty to identify carers.

London Councils supports this new Clause and encourages MPs to vote for it.

### New Clause 7 - Independent review of future demand for social care and healthcare.

Social Care spending has not kept pace with growing demand for social care, particularly as a result of changing demographics - more people living longer and increased pressures from adults with learning disabilities. The Dilnot Commission reported that over 4 years the growth in demand in adult social care had outstripped social care expenditure by around 9 per cent. With local government budgets under increasing pressure, it is important that there is a true picture of the future demand for adult social care if vulnerable people are to have access to appropriate support. Increased pressure on budgets may result in councils being forced to ration the care they provide to only those with critical needs.

London Councils believes that a statutory and independent review of the future demand for social care would be helpful to both help identify the appropriate financial and other resources necessary to address the current funding pressures in the sector and to meet the future demand.

London Councils supports this new Clause and encourages MPs to vote for it.

### New Clause 9 - Reporting on the funding for new costs arising from the Care Act

London Councils supports the proposal for a statutory Joint Care and Support Reform Programme Board to submit a written report annually to the Secretary of State - stating whether it is satisfied that there is sufficient funding in place to ensure that social care is adequately funded and that the provisions in the Act can be implemented satisfactorily.

If the laudable aims of the Care legislation are to be achieved, it is vital that sufficient funding is provided. In London, councils will have seen a 44 per cent cut in central government funding by 2015/16 and we estimate they will need at least £1.14 by 2019/20 to enable them to deliver the provisions in the Bill. However, it is difficult now to assess what the full cost implications of this legislation will be in the future. There is therefore a need for a statutory annual review which can address any shortfall. The Board's annual report should help to identify and address local government concerns regarding the adequacy of public funding that is available for implementing the Bill's provisions.

London Councils supports this new Clause and encourages MPs to vote for it.

#### Contacts.

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