

# TOWARDS AN EQUAL LIFE SERIES

Autumn 2021 to  
Spring 2022



## Social Care Future

Whose Social Care  
Future is it Anyway?

## What's it all about?

In May this year we launched the first findings of the *Whose Social Care Future is it Anyway* Inquiry. The Inquiry Group of people who draw on social care identified 5 key changes needed, made a series of “first asks” to kick off progress and outlined where next for the Inquiry. This series is part of those next steps. Over the summer we have been talking with members of our movement and others who play key roles in social care.

### Some First Asks

#### People who draw on social care and families, workers, professionals, concerned others:

Will you be guided by the Social Care Future vision, looking for every opportunity to take action on our 5 key changes?

Will you challenge and offer better solutions when you see practice and behaviour that keeps people in permanent lockdown?

#### National social care organisations:

Will you commit to use the Social Care Future vision to shape your efforts to both influence government and support councils to think beyond traditional services in your improvement and other work?

Will you take direct action yourselves and support your members to act on the 5 key changes?

#### Leaders in councils and support providers:

Will you use the Social Care Future vision to shape your local strategy? Focus on our 5 key changes? And use Think Local Act Personal's Making it Real to act in co-production with local people?

Will you commit to use the best learning about how to bring all local resources into play?

#### Government:

Will you provide short term relief in the Comprehensive Spending Review to support the recovery of social care and start transformation?

Will you make multi year investment, so that local authorities can meet their statutory requirements and also incentivise, support, evaluate and promote innovation in pursuit of our vision for the future?

[#socialcarefuture](https://twitter.com/socialcarefuture)

## 5 Key Changes to Unlock an Equal 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



#socialcarefuture

## What's next?

Following this we are going to dive deeper into the 5 key changes so that by next Spring, we can:

- 1) Paint a more detailed picture of what social care needs to do to make our shared vision a reality and
- 2) Use this to influence and plan action to bring that future about. In support of this we are excited to announce a partnership with Research in Practice who will be doing a major review of evidence that can underpin the 5 key changes.

This online series of debates and showcasing gatherings will be a key part of this next stage of the Inquiry.

The debates will allow us to get under the skin of each of the five key changes, bringing people with various kinds of experience and expertise together to explore:

what the change might look like/  
involve

key issues offering opportunities or putting up barriers to change

ideas for practical action

As well as expert debate the sessions will give participants an opportunity to contribute their ideas and views. At each debate we will have observers reviewing what emerges from each session in order to help inform the inquiry by offering ideas and areas for focus and action. In parallel with the debates we will host sessions exploring some of the “glimpses of the future” we are gathering that link to each change.

## The outline programme...

### What's coming up

November

16



**Communities Where Everyone Belongs:** save the date! (hosted by New Local). National debates about social care are dominated by funding. But we can't stop there. It's essential that any new settlement in social care puts the people who draw on social care at the centre. New Local and #SocialCareFuture are co-hosting a public discussion with key figures in the social care debate, to focus on how to put people that draw on social care and their communities in the driving seat. Both New Local and #SocialCareFuture have a mission to put power in the hands of people and communities, and help them become the architects of their own futures. What would it mean in practice if people who draw on social care and their communities are really in the driving seat? This online event will hear from speakers representing a range of personal, political and public sector perspectives to address how the system would need to shift to realise this vision.

December

14



**Living in a place we call home:** What will it take to support people in our own homes, with the necessary adaptations, technology and flexible personal support directed by us? How can we be supported to plan ahead for ourselves and our families with the information, advice, support and advocacy that helps us make good decisions and choose the right things for us? If we move from our original homes, how can we ensure a good choice of housing and support options available so we are not simply “placed” in one size fits all institutional care? When we choose housing with support options we must be supported in ways that keep us as free to live as other people, not putting up with different rules and controls?

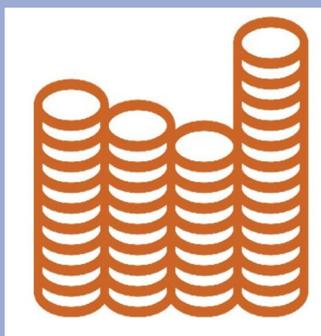
# The outline programme cont...

| February |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon      | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| 1        | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8        | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15       | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22       | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |



**Leading the lives we want to live:** How can we ensure people are trusted to make decisions and direct our own support, with help where we need and want it? What will it take to remove practices, systems, processes and rules that mainly control people and instead enable lots of creativity, innovation and flexibility? How can this choice and control apply to all forms of support – including personal budgets, support at home, housing with support? When we choose to manage our own support how can we be really free and supported to do just that? How can councils focus on the resources and support needed to make this work well, not restrictive rules and controls that limit our lives or make it too much of a burden?

| March |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon   | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| 1     | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8     | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15    | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22    | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29    | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |     |



**More resources, better used:** How can government resources be increased to the level that allows people the funding we need to live a life like other people, where needed supported by staff who are properly paid and supported themselves? How can we stop leaving people without the money they need for a life like others, through excessive local charges? Can local councils, their partners and support providers think about and use resources differently – starting from asking how to support good lives in strong communities not traditional services? How do we use all kinds of local resources not just social care money? What are the best ways to redirect money to better, non-traditional kinds of support that help people find their own solutions in their communities, avoiding needing services where possible or being supported through ways that work for them.

# The outline programme cont...



| April |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Thu   | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed |
| 1     | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8     | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15    | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22    | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29    | 30  |     |     |     |     |     |



**Sharing power as equals:** How can we get real co-production to happen at all levels; individual, service, strategic . How can unnecessary rules and bureaucracy that control rather than enable people be removed? What would it take so that workers, properly rewarded, be given the chance to use their creativity, skills and judgement in proper partnership with people. How do we change the way councils arrange and buy services (commissioning) so that it becomes collaborative with communities? - ‘co-commissioning’ How to ensure leaders make generating a culture of openness and trust one of their highest priorities? Can we get stronger assurance, accountability and forms of redress and appeal? How do we pay particular attention to increasing the power of some groups of people who draw on social care who get the worst deal and their voices heard more?

## Look out for the sessions

We will release details of each session in advance, where you will be able to book places.

Session one, on the 16th November is being hosted by New Local and the booking link will be available soon—it is free entry (thanks to Seeability).

For sessions 2—5 our usual pay if you can policy applies. We don’t expect people who draw on social care or family members to pay. If you are able to pay we ask for £60 per event.

Event sponsors are very welcome – get in touch via [socialcarefuture@gmail.com](mailto:socialcarefuture@gmail.com) We are an unfunded movement currently receiving no core or grant funding and need some income to cover co-production, admin and co-ordination costs.

**Watch out for the booking link to session one and further dates for the other four sessions coming soon.**