



# Our Adult Social Care Vision and Strategies

May 2023

# Why we are updating our ASC vision and strategies

Our Promoting Independence vision and strategies were last updated in 2018/19. Our leadership team has reviewed them and thinks the principles are still relevant, but we want to test them with stakeholders.

There has been a lot of change since 2018-19:

- We have been through the Covid-19 pandemic.
- We are facing a cost-of-living crisis.
- Financial sustainability is ever more challenging.
- People at the Heart of Care 2021.
- Health and Care Act 2022.
- We have a new Director of Adult Social Services.
- We have a new Chief Executive.
- We are due to be assessed and rated by CQC.

Month	Activity
October 2022	Agree approach and timetable
November 2022	Initial drafting
December 2022	Engagement
January 2022	Annual Report published
February 2023	Launch of 'have your say'
March 2023	Further feedback
April 2023	Redrafting
May 2023	Formatting and Governance
June 2023	Publication

Our current vision, strategies, plans are published:

[Our vision, 5 Year Plan and Annual Report | Devon County Council](#)

Our latest Annual Report was presented to Health and Care Scrutiny earlier this month:

[HAC Scrutiny 20012023 Annual Report for Adult Social Care - Draft v10 , item 6. PDF 3 MB](#)

# Summary of our vision and strategies

<b>Vision</b>	<p>We all want to live in the place we can call home, with the people and things we love, in communities where we look out for one another doing what matters to us</p>				<p><b>Promoting independence in Devon</b> Our vision for people to live fulfilling lives as independently as they are able by being informed, secure and connected</p>		
<b>Aims</b>	<p>Encourage you to stay well and support you to help yourself. Work with you when you need help through personalised, strengths based support to keep you connected to your community</p>						<p><b>Living Well in Devon</b> For Adults of working age to maximise their capacity for independent living, including autistic people, people with learning disabilities, mental health needs, physical disabilities and sensory disabilities</p>
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>People live <b>independently and safely in their own homes</b> in the community and make informed choices throughout their lives</p>	<p>People are in <b>paid employment</b> where appropriate and have access to <b>volunteering</b> in their communities</p>	<p>People are <b>healthy and live longer</b> in the community</p>	<p>People <b>benefit from strengths based</b> support that focuses on achieving goals</p>	<p><b>Ageing Well in Devon</b> Focuses on peoples needs as they get older to sustain their capacity for independent living, including interventions that prevent, reduce and delay care needs</p>		
<b>Areas of Focus</b>	<p>Support people early with targeted information and advice, alongside use of community equipment and support</p>	<p>Bolster short term and goal focused enabling support in the community and commission for achievement of outcomes</p>	<p>Increased supported housing opportunities in communities and reduce reliance on residential and nursing care</p>	<p>Change social work culture and practice, increase equipment use and community connections to plan for independence</p>	<p>Improve how transitions are managed at all stages of people's lives</p>	<p>Safeguard adults at risk from harm in ways that meet their desired outcomes</p>	<p><b>Caring Well in Devon</b> Focuses on unpaid carers who look after a partner, family member or friend (Not all people who fulfil a caring role recognise themselves as carer or seek support)</p>
<b>Enablers</b>	<p><b>Financial sustainability</b></p>	<p><b>Workforce development</b></p>	<p><b>Service sufficiency and innovation</b></p>	<p><b>System working</b></p>			

# Overarching aims of our strategies

## **Encouraging you to stay well and supporting you to help yourself**

- We help you to remain fit and well, or to improve or maintain your current abilities for longer by making informed choices.
- We encourage you to do as much as you can with support from your family, friends and community networks.
- We promote technology and digital solutions where it can play a role in helping to improve your independence.
- We work with other organisations to ensure you can access advice and find out about local support and other services to help you look after yourself in your community.
- Where you have specific care needs, we help you with support that increases your ability to manage them.

## **Working with you when you need help through personalised, strength-based support to keep you connected to your community**

- When you are in need of direct support, we ensure you have timely access to social care services that meet your needs and are affordable for the County Council.
- If you are referred to Adult Social Care, we ensure that we understand what you really need to support you in the short and longer term to live as independently as you can.
- The support you have focuses on achieving goals, digital or equipment needs, existing or new connections.
- We support you by commissioning housing and support that promotes your independence for as long as possible.
- We ensure that you are safeguarded from harm in ways that meet their desired outcomes.

# What does 'promoting independence' mean in practice?

- **Through prevention:** creating the conditions where people and communities help themselves.
- **At first contact:** effectively meeting people's needs through information, advice, signposting, diverting them from dependence on care services by preventing, reducing, or delaying their need for them.
- **In our care management practice:** focussing on strengths of individuals, their families and social networks, and their communities to help people help themselves and each other do what matters to them.
- **Through short-term interventions:** developing the range of services we offer collaborating with NHS partners, extending their reach, improving their effectiveness, and ensuring appropriate access and triage.
- **Through long-term services:** making the default expectation the maximisation of independence and giving people choice and control over the services they receive from a diverse, high quality, affordable and sufficient market of providers.
- **By safeguarding:** keeping vulnerable adults in our health and care systems, pathways, and transitions safe.
- **With carers:** supporting them in their role through access to information, training, advice, and support.
- **In integration:** making independence the key outcome of all services and the core principle of shared culture, preparing people for recovery in all stages of health intervention.

### DELIVERY AND REVIEW

- Plans at strategy level
- Integrated into change programme
- 1 and 5 year view
- Updated annually
- Or as occasion demands

### VISION

- Foreword
- Promoting Independence Vision
- What it means in practice
- Summary Infographic

### MODULAR APPROACH

- Online HTML publication
- Alt-Text for any graphics
- Accessibility standards
- Components can be updated individually
- Navigation via links

### LIVING WELL

- Introduction
- What people have said
- Where we are now
- How we will deliver

### AGEING WELL

- Introduction
- What people have said
- Where we are now
- How we will deliver

### CARING WELL

- Introduction
- What people have said
- Where we are now
- How we will deliver

### SUPPORTING APPROACHES

- Managing change
- Making the best use of resources
- Prevention/Information/Advice
- Market development
- Workforce development
- Involvement and co-production
- Assurance

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- Map of strategies, plans
- Needs assessment
- What data tells us
- Legislation that guides us
- The government's vision
- The Sector's vision
- The One Devon Strategy
- The Devon Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- The DCC strategic plan

### DELIVERY

- Commitment to plan
- Commitment to review and report annually
- How we will know
- Contact to get involved

# Feedback on the language and principles

- **Ensure ‘promoting independence’ is written through the strategies, recognising that people’s capacity for independence varies and can be different at different times.**
- (Some are positive about the language of ‘promoting independence’, others are concerned it doesn’t recognise that for some, living their best lives involves dependence on others, and prefer ‘empowering people’ or ‘enabling independence’.)
- **Ask whether the principles and priorities articulated in the vision and strategies are strong enough to guide decision-making, including regarding the use of limited resources.**
- Acknowledge that the aspirations of carers (especially parent-carers) may differ from their loved one, including regarding employment and independent living.
- **Remember that carers also want greater independence, and are unable to ‘live their best lives’ without regular breaks from their caring role.**

# Feedback on structure and style of documents



- **Be honest about the financial context and ask whether the proposed savings strategies are aligned to the strategies and whether the ambitions laid out are achievable.**
- Reduce length of, and jargon in, the documents and incorporate more quotes from people with lived experience. Recognise what we have said and that you have listened.
- **Define terms where they are important. What is ‘strength-based practice’? What does ‘promoting independence’ mean to people with disabilities?**
- **Distil the vision and strategies into a single short paragraph to include in the header of every document and a single slide to share with staff and other stakeholders.**
- **Address join-up with the vision and strategies in children’s services, the opportunities of working across health and care through One Devon, the importance of the voluntary sector, and the untapped potential in communities.**
- (Some recognise the approach of three strategies as being pragmatic and meaningful, others point out that the pension age is no longer 65, and people experience ageing differently.)




# Feedback on the proposed changes to services

- **Highlight that mental health and wellbeing should have parity with physical health, and that includes dementia.**
- **Recognise that end of life care is a priority and for many will be the only phase in which they need adult social care support.**
- **Emphasise the shift to short-term interventions, including in response to crisis and to support transitions, as opportunities to promote independence and reduce long-term support that is unnecessary for some in normal circumstances.**
- **Recognise that people's lives are not lived 9-to-5 and services should flex accordingly, especially enabling support.**
- **Also, that where people live, who they live with, and their access to transport are as important as the kind of accommodation they live in.**
- **Make a stronger commitment to equality of access and outcome, recognising the hidden barriers rooted in social disadvantage.**
- **Recognise that carers can also be vulnerable and the victims of abuse.**

# www.devon.gov.uk/promoting-independence/

Devon County Council  Council updates ▾ Pinpoint A to Z Help ▾ Search devon.gov.uk 

 Promoting independence  
Our vision and strategies for adult social care in Devon

Home Our vision Living well Ageing well Caring well Supporting information ▾ Delivery

## Promoting independence: Our vision for adult social care in Devon 2023-28

Our 'promoting independence' vision and strategies were last updated in 2018/19 since when a lot has changed. For example:

- We have been through the COVID-19 pandemic and are now facing the challenges of recovery
- We are facing a cost-of-living crisis with inflation unpredictable and greater than increases in our income, making financial sustainability increasingly challenging for councils
- The government published its vision for adult social care 'People at the Heart of Care' in 2021.
- The Health and Care Act came into legislation in 2022 and introduced assessment of local authority adult social care functions by the Care Quality Commission
- We have a new Chief Executive and a new Director of Adult Social Services bringing fresh insight into the council