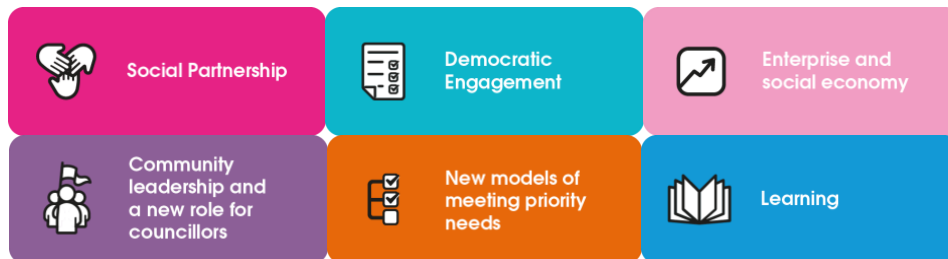


HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



Cheshire West and Chester Council

Future of Adult Social Care Commission

Cheshire West and Chester Council established a Commission on the Future of Adult Social Care in 2021 to consider ‘What does a good life look like for you and your family and how can we work together to achieve it?’

The Commission brought together eight commissioners to hear from local people who draw on social care and other experts to understand the issues and opportunities facing social care. The commissioners were made up of six elected councillors along with a leader from both the NHS and from the community and voluntary sector.

Adult Social Care is fundamentally about people, as was this Commission. Every meeting of the Commission started by hearing the experience of someone who draws on social care. People spoke about the practical difference that the services they draw on makes to their lives, the financial and practical support from family that allows them to live and not just survive and the range of temporary services that need to be accessible quickly to prevent people from falling into crisis.

The Commission worked in clear, open and accessible way. All Commission meetings were held in public and all evidence that the Commission considered, its notes, final report and videos of its meetings are available at [Commission on the future of Adult Social Care | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

The Commission’s final recommendations were summed up under six overall themes, with the report giving a brief explanation of why each theme is important, the current position,

some strategic and the operational recommendations, and then a summary of the learning of the Commission against each theme.

1. Take a human rights approach to disability

Around 61,000 people who live in Cheshire West are disabled. The Commission called for a commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and to the social model of disability – recognising that disability is created by an inaccessible society and the physical, social and attitudinal barriers it puts in peoples way.

2. Make ‘nothing about us without us’ real

We need to put lived experience at the centre of decision making. Giving people not just a voice but an active role in setting arranging, planning and delivering services.

3. Keep it simple

When people first encounter the social care system it can be confusing and overwhelming. We need to do all that we can to make processes streamlined and understandable.

4. Think local

Local services that help people remain in their communities, keep communities sustainable, support and build on new and existing relationships and networks, and help to reduce the carbon emissions and lost time associated with travelling

5. Support a fairer future

Cheshire West and Chester Council has declared a poverty emergency and launched the [Fairer Futures strategy](#). Those on fixed incomes are being hard hit by the current cost of living crisis and we need to consider the impact that the cost of care has on people.

6. Strong leadership, strong workforce and good use of data

The new Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership is a significant opportunity to deliver more joined up services that focus on, and benefit, those who draw on care. We need strong leadership to push that forward and to tackle challenges such as the recruitment issues that are impacting across the care sector.

Early outcomes

All recommendations were accepted by Cheshire West and Chester Council, who have passed a motion to commit to the United National Declaration on the Rights of People with Disabilities and adopt the social model of disability. The Council have also begun a new three-year programme to mainstream a Community Led Support approach, and are working with local community sector leaders both to develop a new approach to commissioning and a common understanding of, and commitment to, coproduction.



A discussion during the Commission's second meeting

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