



# Manifesto 2017

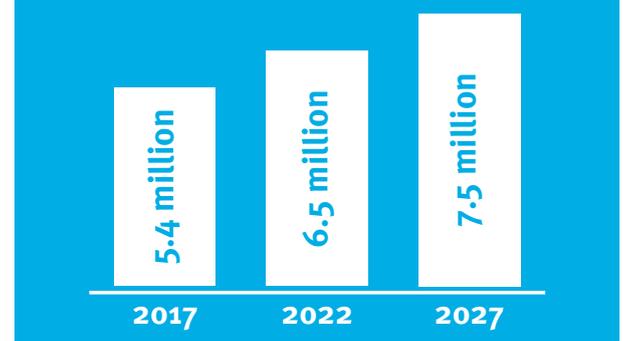
Supporting older and disabled people to live independently

## Homecare - an essential service

Homecare helps almost a million older and disabled people each year to remain independent at home<sup>1</sup>



### UK population growth - people aged 75+<sup>2</sup>



**1 million**  
people will be living with dementia by 2021<sup>3</sup>

**9 out of 10 people** aged 50+ would choose care in their own home<sup>4</sup>

**445,000 days**  
a year spent in hospital from delayed discharges due to lack of homecare (in England alone)<sup>5</sup>

**629,000**  
people are employed in the UK homecare sector<sup>6</sup>

United Kingdom Homecare Association  
The professional association for homecare providers

**7 out of 10 adults** want to live at home until they die<sup>7</sup>



# UKHCA Manifesto 2017

Our next government has a significant opportunity to place the future wellbeing of older and disabled people at the heart of our nation's vision for a society which values every citizen.

This manifesto urges political parties, and candidates standing for election, to commit to ensuring almost one million older and disabled people can remain healthy and independent in their own homes, while also enabling family members to combine caring responsibilities with family life and employment.

**UKHCA calls on the next government to make the following commitments:**

## 1. Ensure that people with care and support needs can remain independent at home

When asked about their future care needs, the vast majority of people express an overwhelming preference to be supported at home and remain part of their established community, even at the end of life.

Strong leadership from central government, based on cross-party consensus, is vital to ensure that people's needs are at the heart of our care and health system.

**The new government should require councils and the health service to offer home-based care as the first option for all their citizens and patients.**

## 2. Relieve pressure on the NHS by effective use of homecare

Homecare services already play a leading role supporting people's healthcare needs, helping them to manage medication safely at home and supporting increasingly complex treatment alongside community health services.

Ensuring that homecare services are well-commissioned and properly funded is essential to ease pressures on the NHS, enabling people to return home once they are medically fit to leave hospital.

Local councils (responsible for social care) and clinical commissioning groups (responsible for people's health needs) are beginning to work more effectively together, but need to develop their future plans with people who use services and their care providers, to ensure that support is shaped around people's needs and preferences.

**The new government should prioritise investment in services which meet people's care, support and health needs in a joined-up way.**

## 3. Make it easier for people who are willing or able to fund their own care and support

Few people plan ahead for the cost of social care, because the balance of responsibility between the individual and the State is unclear. There are few incentives or available financial products to enable people to do so.

Costs of providing care to people who fund their own services (and for councils) could be reduced by changing the VAT status of essential welfare services from 'exempt' to 'zero rated'.

**The new government should implement incentives for individuals and their families to encourage people to make sound financial plans for their care needs.**



## 4. Stabilise the state-funded social care market

The Care Act 2014 was the most significant change in England's approach to care since the introduction of the welfare state nearly 70 years ago, with councils receiving new responsibilities for shaping local care markets.

Despite the new legislation, there is national recognition that the potential of the homecare sector has been severely damaged by underfunding and out-dated commissioning practices, including buying care by the minute.

Social care funding from central government in each UK administration should be ring-fenced, and must reach front-line services, where it is urgently needed.

**The new government should require local authorities and clinical commissioning groups to work with providers to understand, publish and pay the real costs of care. A statutory regulator should be empowered to take action where local care markets are at risk of becoming unsustainable.**

## 5. Expand the workforce and increase recognition of homecare workers

Central and local government should recognise the value of over 629,000 people in the homecare workforce, who not only support almost one million people each year but contribute to the UK economy by supporting family carers, providing employment, and paying taxes.

The historic underfunding of state-funded care must be reversed to improve the terms and conditions available to workers, and to support adequate training and skills-development.

The UK is committed to reducing unemployment through apprenticeships across business sectors, but further work is required to ensure that apprenticeships can be delivered around the needs of a community-based workforce.

**The new government should commit to improving the status of care as a career, including granting 'key-worker' benefits for homecare workers.**

## 6. Ensure that the public are protected through consistent regulation

People who are supported by registered homecare agencies already benefit from a regulator which inspects provider organisations for quality and safety.

However, the law has not kept up with developing models of care and the public has less protection if they employ or engage careworkers through private arrangements, or use organisations which solely introduce workers through the Internet.

**The new government should require social care regulators to assure the quality of all social care services, however they are delivered.**

## 7. Ensure a sufficient workforce following exit from the European Union

The UK's homecare system benefits from the talents and dedication of workers from the EU and across the world.

However, the UK's exit from the EU will reduce the future homecare workforce by 7% of its existing capacity, and future arrangements for access to the UK labour market have not been agreed.

**The new government should commit to a migration policy which is not exclusively based on applicants' qualifications and earnings, but also takes account of people's values and skills, enabling sufficient recruits to join the social care workforce from outside the UK, where these cannot be found from the domestic workforce.**



## **UKHCA calls on the next government to:**

1. Ensure that people with care and support needs can remain independent at home
2. Relieve pressure on the NHS by effective use of homecare
3. Make it easier for people who are willing or able to fund their own care and support
4. Stabilise the state-funded social care market
5. Expand the workforce and increase recognition of homecare workers
6. Ensure that the public are protected through consistent regulation
7. Ensure a sufficient workforce following exit from the European Union

### **About this manifesto**

This manifesto is intended to inform parties, candidates and voters in the elections to the UK Parliament in June 2017. Social care is a devolved matter for the respective assemblies of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. With the exception of matters relating to exit from the European Union, social care policy described in this manifesto largely relates to the provision of social care in England.

### **About UKHCA**

United Kingdom Homecare Association Ltd (UKHCA) is the professional association of homecare providers from the independent, voluntary, not-for-profit and statutory sectors. UKHCA helps organisations that provide social care (also known as domiciliary care or homecare) to people in their own homes, promoting high standards of care and providing representation with national and regional policy makers and regulators. The Association represents over two thousand members across the United Kingdom.

UKHCA's vision is of a United Kingdom where a choice of high quality, sustainable home-based care is available to everyone who would benefit.

**For further information on UKHCA or the homecare sector please email [policy@ukhca.co.uk](mailto:policy@ukhca.co.uk) or visit [www.ukhca.co.uk](http://www.ukhca.co.uk)**

### **References**

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