

Wokingham Borough Liberal Democrats: Our Local Manifesto 2018

Adult Social Care

The problems

- Many people live with multiple long term chronic conditions - often a mix of physical and mental health issues which involves health and care services working closely together.
- The use of Council Tax to cover Adult Social Care costs is in our view only a temporary measure.
- Care solutions provided are often the cheapest option available and not necessarily based on the wellbeing of the individual.
- There is an irrational and highly damaging divide between health and social care budgets - too many people fall through the gaps, caught in the crossfire between the NHS and local government.
- More people need a contribution towards the high cost of care.
- An un-willingness of the NHS and care services to invest in technology solutions which can help to prevent ill health, diagnose earlier and treat patients.
- Loneliness - half of over 75 year olds live alone and carers can often feel isolated. We need to support people living with illness or disability to lead good lives.

Our solutions

- We would establish a cross party process to develop a sustainable, long term settlement for the NHS and social care. Critically, this has to engage with the public and with staff.
- Long term costs to be met through a reformed National Insurance system which is fair between the generations.
- We would re-commit to the importance of people being in control of their care and their lives.
- Introduce pooled budgets for localities giving regions the freedom to innovate and shape a health and care system that works for local populations
- We would introduce a cap on the care costs payable by individuals from their lifetime savings and assets.
- Investigate the technological potential to empower people to take control of their lives, maintain independence for longer and stave off dependency
- We would support and encourage communities to look after each other, bringing together councils, the NHS and voluntary organisations to help put people in control and help them lead ordinary lives.