

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Citizens' Assembly for Northern Ireland was set the task to:

1. Explore aspirations for social care for older people, including the role the health service, communities and individuals need to play.
2. Develop useful, realistic recommendations for delivering a sustainable, fit-for-purpose social care system for older people, future-proofed to cope with the needs of the next generations (within the context of finite resources).

Set out below are the preliminary recommendations and resolutions agreed by the Citizens' Assembly for Northern Ireland at its second meeting on the weekend of 17/18 November 2018. The full findings and results of the Citizens' Assembly will be published in January 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Citizens' Assembly for Northern Ireland developed and agreed 27 recommendations across three themes: person centred care; systems and structures; and care providers. The recommendations are ordered under each theme according to the level of support they received.

THEME: PERSON CENTRED CARE

To review the assessment process to move towards continuous assessments which are needs based and not resource led. The process of assessment and service allocation should be transparent.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	1	1	30	39	0	97%

To adopt policy & provision which promotes the integration of older people with the wider community. This should include a range of housing options (including intergenerational sharing), access to transport & community spaces where older people & others can interact.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	2	0	35	34	0	97%

To implement a social care approach which targets early intervention and prevention for those with moderate and low level needs which takes into account individual needs and choices.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	2	2	31	36	0	94%

To ensure policy and provision to facilitate intergenerational skills sharing and support which can be therapeutic including, gardening, arts, Music, Sport, Reading, Cookery and the use of support animals.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	1	4	33	33	0	93%

To improve the use of technology in social care, including in the assessment process and in people's homes to support independent living.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	2	4	27	38	0	92%

That the health and social care system should develop a holistic model of care that considers an individual across their life course, with a specific emphasis on tackling poverty & inequality, & educating individuals on healthy choices to help reduce future pressures on the social care system.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	4	3	34	30	0	90%

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THEME: SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES

To establish new, and strengthen existing mechanisms, to ensure that the voice & influence of users & the wider public is at the heart of the design & reviews of services.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	1	0	37	33	0	99%

To ensure equitable access to comparable social care provision across all areas of Northern Ireland for older people.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	1	1	15	54	0	97%

To improve regulation to ensure a consistent provision and quality of care, to a minimum standard, across all providers.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	1	2	23	45	0	96%

To present the public with clear information on social care need & initiate public engagement about funding models.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	0	3	28	40	0	96%

That the health & social care system should be streamlined to eliminate duplication (fewer organisations) and ensure collaboration.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	2	2	14	52	1	93%

That users should be able to access an integrated range of services, including housing and transport.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	1	4	20	45	1	92%

To address the need for high quality data (including on unmet needs) to ensure policy decisions are consistently based on evidence.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	5	1	28	37	0	92%

To adopt an older persons' charter committing to rights, purposes, roles and entitlements underpinned by publicly agreed values and principles.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	3	2	30	34	2	90%

To provide more accessible information about Health and Social Care Trusts, including lines of accountability, duties and authority, and membership of each Trust's Board.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	4	4	35	28	0	89%

To ring-fence a percentage of the regional rate to be used in a transparent and accountable way for social care.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	5	10	28	28	0	79%

That there needs to be a rebalancing of funding between health & social care to ensure greater prioritisation of social care services.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	8	8	31	24	0	77%

That there should be a separate Minister with responsibility for social care within the current department.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	21	9	27	13	1	56%

That a social care commission should be established with a remit to: 1) collect analyse & share information. 2) consult with users, workers, voluntary sector organisations, academics & providers. 3) Make recommendations to the Department and have sufficient power to hold the Department to account.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	13	18	27	12	1	55%

THEME: CARE PROVIDERS

To make caring a more attractive profession by improving working conditions: including the identification of clear career pathways, providing emotional support for staff, paying for travel time & mileage & expenses in addition to salary, & ending the use of compulsory zero-hour contracts.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	0	0	28	43	0	100%

To strengthen and enhance the right to access respite care: Unpaid Carers should have access to appropriate & adequate respite services, including information about entitlement.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	0	1	22	48	0	99%

To link pay & progression to skills, experience and qualifications.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	0	2	23	46	0	97%

To value unpaid carers by assessing their needs and funding and delivering appropriate support & advice to meet financial, psychological & social needs of unpaid carers, including a 24hr advice line.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	0	3	20	48	0	96%

To launch a campaign to attract more people into the caring professions and achieve a more diverse workforce.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	2	1	28	40	0	96%

To commit within a specific timeframe to resourcing a well-trained & professional workforce, with annual mandatory training and professional development.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	0	4	23	44	0	94%

To pay all care workers according to public sector pay-bands.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	5	2	23	40	1	89%

To demonstrate the value society places on unpaid carers by significantly increasing the Carer's Allowance.

Number of eligible votes	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Spoilt	RESULT % Agree/Strongly Agree
71	3	5	26	37	0	89%

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS

As well as the above recommendations, the Citizens' Assembly for Northern Ireland agreed the following high-level resolutions. The resolutions are ordered according to the level of support they received.

RESOLUTION ON TRANSFORMATION

We the members of the Citizens' Assembly for Northern Ireland recognise that the existing service models for delivering social care for older people do not meet the needs and expectations of current and future service users. We call for a comprehensive transformation programme, with public and user engagement at its heart, to design a system fit for purpose.

Number of eligible votes	YES	NO	Spoilt	RESULT % support
73	71	1	1	97%

RESOLUTION ON FUNDING

We the members of the Citizens' Assembly for Northern Ireland recognise that much more dedicated funding is needed to reflect demand and resource the appropriate provision of improved social care for older people. We urge Ministers and decision makers to take decisive and accountable action to address this under-investment and the poor management of resources.

Number of eligible votes	YES	NO	Spoilt	RESULT % support
73	63	9	1	86%

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

My preference for how social care for older people should be funded in the future is:

	Option A: entirely publicly funded (recognising that it is likely to mean paying higher taxes)	Option B: provided by a mix of public and private funding – but the weighting should be more towards public funding	Option C: a mix of private and public funding – but weighted more towards private funding	Option D: entirely privately funded by individuals and their families
First Preferences	31	37	2	1
Points for preferences	147	168	70	11

RESOLUTION ON POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

We the members of the Citizens' Assembly for Northern Ireland call for strong, cross-party collaborative leadership on social care for older people in Northern Ireland. We call on decision-makers to look beyond their party-political interests and make the decisions needed to deliver transformational change.

Number of eligible votes	YES	NO	Spoilt	RESULT % support
73	59	10	4	81%