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**CARE BILL BRIEFING**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. This report is to make Scrutiny aware of the forthcoming Care Bill and provide a briefing on this.

**Summary**

2. The Government's White Paper - Caring for our future: reforming care and support set out the long term programme to reform care and support. The introduction of the Care Bill into Parliament is a major step in taking forward these reforms, as it will modernise social care legislation and put in place a system that promotes people's well-being.
3. The system will place a greater focus on prevention, which will mean that the care and support needs of people will be considered earlier than is currently the case. It is intended to build on the strengths of individuals and look to prevent, reduce or delay their need for care and support. To achieve this, there needs to be better integration between local authorities and the NHS to remove gaps and build services around the needs of people. £3.8 billion of pooled funding in 2015/16, including an addition £2 billion through the NHS, to deliver faster and deeper integration.
4. The following areas are some of the key points;
  - (a) Carers - There is recognition of the key role that Carer's play in supporting those who use care and support. The system would not work without the support they provide. The bill will therefore extends existing duties on local authorities to assess carers needs, and will for the first time ever, provide a right to support to meet their eligible needs.
  - (b) One of the important new changes through these reforms is establishing a national eligibility criteria for adult care and support. These will set a minimum threshold for people's care and support needs which must be met by local authorities in all areas. Local authorities will not be able to restrict eligibility beyond this threshold.
  - (c) The other key area is in relation to the Dilnot recommendations. The introduction of the proposals for a cap on the care costs people should have to pay to meet their eligible needs will likely see more people approaching the local authority.

5. The Draft Bill will have its first reading through the Commons on 29th October 2013. Further consultation will take place until April 2014. Regulations are due to be set out in October 2014, with the statute being implemented from April 2015.
6. There will be concentrated work, training for staff and preparation as the Draft Bill goes through its stages to becoming Law.

### **Recommendation**

7. It is recommended that :-
  - (a) Scrutiny note the key points and implications of the Care Bill and key dates.

**Murray Rose, Director of People**

### **Background Papers**

None

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S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	
Groups Affected	
Budget and Policy Framework	
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	
Efficiency	