



ADULT SOCIAL CARE COMMISSIONING STATEMENT 2026

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Introduction

This commissioning statement sets out our shared vision and approach for delivering high-quality, person-centred adult social care services in Wakefield through effective collaboration between the Council, care providers, and people with lived experience.

At the heart of this statement is a commitment to co-production—working in equal partnership with individuals, families, communities, and providers to shape services that reflect real needs, aspirations, and outcomes. We recognise that commissioning is not just about contracts and procurement; it is about building relationships, sharing power, and creating value together.

Our approach is informed by national best practice, local intelligence, and the principles of integration, prevention, and personalisation. It aligns with our broader ambitions for health and care transformation and supports the delivery of the Wakefield District Health and Care Partnership priorities.

The Council are committed to developing a comprehensive Commissioning Strategy and are aiming to publish this by the Summer of 2027. In the meantime, we aim to:

- Publish an annual Market Position Statement and quarterly Market Position Update Reports that will support business to develop and strengthen.
- Develop a diverse Engagement Plan that fosters open dialogue and collaboration with the market.
- Strengthen co-production and engagement at every stage of the commissioning cycle.
- Promote innovation and flexibility in service design and delivery.
- Ensure services are inclusive, equitable, and responsive to diverse needs.
- Foster sustainable partnerships with providers based on trust, transparency, and shared outcomes.
- This document is both a roadmap and a call to action—for commissioners, providers, and communities—to work together in shaping a future where adult social care is empowering, effective, and truly person-led.

What is adult social care?

Adult social care is delivered by a wide range of organisations and professionals, and within families and communities. It covers all forms of personal and practical support for adults who need extra support to live a long and healthy life, one they can live free from harm, with independence, dignity, and respect in the place they call home. It is part of a complex system of services and support - including the NHS, so it is important that all these different services and systems work together to provide integrated care.

What we do?

Our main purpose is to support people to live safely in the place they call home with the people and things that they love, in communities where people look out for one another, doing the things that matter to them.

We are responsible for assessing people's needs, aged 18 and over, and, if they are eligible, for funding their care and support to meet those needs. We also have a responsibility to assess people caring for family members or other people close to them, and provide these carers, if eligible, with support to reduce the impact of caring on their own wellbeing.

Though some services, such as advice and information or safeguarding, are available to everyone, the provision of care and support services are only available to people who have a level of needs to meet the care and support eligibility thresholds. These care and support services (e.g. residential care, day opportunities, or support for people in their own home) are also means-tested. This means that some people may need to contribute towards the cost of their social care services, but we can still support them to access support.

We also have a responsibility to shape and develop a provider market that delivers a range of high-quality care and support services to meet people's needs.

These responsibilities are laid out in the Care Act 2014, but we also need to work within a range of other legislative frameworks relevant to adult social care such as the Mental Health Act and the Mental Capacity Act.

Our Priorities

Working closely with our partners, we will place people and communities at the heart of our decision making, raise aspirations and create career opportunities to ensure we have a thriving workforce, establish and deliver quality and effectiveness in the services that we provide, and we will continue to provide joined-up care and support that meet the needs of Wakefield residents . Action plans will be developed to support the delivery of each of the priority outcomes of this statement.

1. People and Communities

We will support people to live safely in the place they call home with the people and things that they love, in communities where people look out for one another, doing the things that matter to them

2. Thriving Workforce

We will have a confident, skilled and productive workforce who put people at the centre of the service, actively promoting independence and wellbeing

3. Quality and Effectiveness

We will be an accessible, effective, forward thinking and technologically skilled service with high levels of performance improvement, quality assurance and value for money

4. Joined up care and support

We will be a fully engaged partner within the health and care system in Wakefield, maximising opportunities for integration and working together to achieve whole system outcomes

5. Maximising Independence

We want to enable people to live the lives they choose, with the right support at the right time, in ways that promote dignity, autonomy, and wellbeing.

6. Co-Production

We are committed to co-producing services in partnership with the market, stakeholders, and people with lived experience, ensuring a flexible and responsive approach that drives continuous service development

What does this mean for you?

People and Communities

We want people to live independently, we will do this by:

- providing information and advice that is easy to find
- making it easier for people to take care of themselves and remain safe and independent
- working with partners to strengthen local networks and support opportunities
- making it as easy as possible for people to get help quickly before needing to use formal services

We want people to regain independence following crisis, we will do this by:

- working with people and families to manage the crisis (e.g. hospital admission, carer breakdown)
- helping people to gain or regain skills they need to live independently

We want people living better lives with support, we will do this by:

- sharing responsibility and decision making with the person, their family and community
- meeting people's needs in a way that centres on them, delivers their outcomes and results in a better quality of life
- wherever possible, support people to remain at home, with family and friends supporting unpaid carers to balance their caring role with their desired quality of life
- working with people to help understand and manage everyday risks while taking care to safeguard people from significant harm

We want people to be feel fully involved and listened to, we will do this by:

- involving people in decisions about their own care and support, involving carers, families and advocates where appropriate
- building strong relationships with Wakefield people and communities to inform our decision making and help to improve adult social care services and support to deliver outcomes

Thriving Workforce

We want people to be supported by a diverse, highly-skilled and valued workforce, we will do this by:

- supporting the recruitment of a workforce that delivers adult social care outcomes within an integrated health and care system
- supporting, developing and retaining a high-quality diverse adult social care workforce
- promoting adult social care as a career through initiatives
- exploring further opportunities to Celebrate Our Success across adult social care

Quality and effectiveness

We want people to receive personalised, high-quality, reliable adult social care services, we will do this by:

- working with partners including the Care Quality Commission to improve quality of care in the district
- implementing robust quality monitoring of services who provide care on behalf of the authority
- investing in smarter technology to improve ways of working
- managing high quality professional practice and operating standards
- utilising a Quality Assurance Framework focused on experience and outcomes of people that use our services
- commissioning (buying-in) high quality services through care and support providers, voluntary and community sector, to offer a choice of support to people
- managing our budget well and exploring invest to save opportunities

Joined up care and support

We want people to receive the right care in the right place, at the right time, we will do this by:

- working with the Wakefield District Health and Care Partnership to improve shared outcomes for people and places through joined up working
- working with Mental Health Provider Alliance and South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust to deliver responsive Mental Health support
- building on the foundations of our Making It Real Board
- implementing new developments with our partners such as the Wakefield Urgent Community Response service, Wakefield Integrated Transfer of Care Hospital Discharge Model and the Wakefield Social Care Provider Collaborative
- working with partners to redesign care and support services that promotes independence and prevents/reduces the need for further services
- working as system partners to ensure people leave hospital in a timely manner and any ongoing needs are assessed in the right place at the right time, including appropriate recovery and rehabilitation.

Maximising Independence

We will shift the focus from long-term dependency to prevention, enablement, and recovery by:

- Building on the strengths of individuals, families, and communities, recognising that independence is not just about living alone or without support— but about having control, purpose, and connection.
- Embedding a strengths-based approaches across all services.
- Investing in early intervention and reablement.
- Supporting people to make informed choices about their care and support.
- Working in partnership with providers, voluntary organisations, and communities to create inclusive, enabling environments.
- Maximising independence is not only the right thing to do—it is essential for creating a sustainable, person-centred care system that meets the needs of our population now and in the future.

Co-production

We want to use co-production to design, deliver and evaluate adult social care services in Wakefield.

- 'Co-production is an approach where people, family members, carers, organisations and commissioners work together in an equal way, sharing influence, skills and experience to design, deliver and monitor services and projects.' [Think Local, Act Personal]
- We will have Shared Purpose and Vision and align goals across stakeholders—commissioners, providers, service users, carers.
- Early and Ongoing Involvement - involving people from the start, not just at consultation stages.
- We will build trust by being transparent and consistent, and by recognising lived experience as a vital source of expertise in every aspect of service commissioning.

Direct Payments and Individual Service Funds

Direct Payments and Individual Service Funds are central to our commitment to personalisation in adult social care. They empower individuals by giving them greater control over how their care and support is arranged and delivered. Through Direct Payments, people can receive funding directly to arrange their own care, choosing services and support that best meet their needs and preferences. Individual Service Funds offer a flexible alternative, allowing individuals to work with providers to tailor support plans while retaining choice and control.

These approaches promote independence, dignity, and self-determination, enabling people to live the lives they choose. We will continue to expand the use of Direct Payments and Individual Service Funds, ensuring that people are supported to make informed decisions, and that providers are equipped to deliver personalised, outcome-focused care. This includes investing in information, advice, and advocacy services, and working with partners to develop innovative models of support that reflect the diversity of our communities.

How can you help?

If you are a provider who works/ or is interested in working in Wakefield we hold a range of engagement events that you can get involved with to shape the market within the district to meet the needs of people now and in the future. More details can be found [here \(link\)](#)

If you are interested in representing service users and/or carers Wakefield, we want to work with you to make our services the best they can be. Your ideas, feedback, and stories help us understand what people need. More details can be found [here \(link\)](#).