

Funding the Future

Wes Streeting has no political will or long-term commit...

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In anticipation of today's announcement of a Commission into social care by Wes Streeting, The Health Foundation undertook [a review of previous reviews, reports and commissions into the issue](#). This is their summary of those over the last 25 years:

Table 1: Summary of reports from social care policy reviews, 1997–2024

Summary	Type	Year	Central themes*	Related legislation
'Modernising social services: promoting independence, improving protection, raising standards' white paper	White paper	1998	NHS integration; service delivery; regulation	Health Act 1999, Care Standards Act 2000, Health and Social Care Act 2001
Report from the Royal Commission chaired by Stewart Sutherland	Royal Commission	1999	Charging system; service delivery	Health and Social Care Act 2001
Report from the health committee inquiry on 'the Long Term Care of the Elderly'	Committee inquiry	1999	NHS integration; service delivery; regulation	
'Our health, our care, our say' white paper	White paper	2006	NHS integration; regulation; service delivery	
Report from the King's Fund commissioned review, chaired by Derek Wanless	Commissioned review	2006	Charging system; NHS integration; service delivery	
Report from the health committee inquiry on 'Social Care'	Committee inquiry	2010	Charging system; regulation; funding	
'Building the national care service' white paper	White paper	2010	Charging system; workforce	Personal Care at Home Act 2010 (repealed)
Report from the government commission chaired by Andrew Dilnot	Government commission	2011	Charging system; unpaid carers	Care Act 2014
Report from the health committee inquiry on 'Social Care'	Committee inquiry	2012	NHS integration; charging system	
'Caring for our future: reforming care and support' white paper	White paper	2012	Service delivery; unpaid carers; workforce	Care Act 2014
Report from the King's Fund commission chaired by Kate Barker	Commission	2014	Charging system; NHS integration; funding	
Reports from 7 committee inquiries in the House of Commons and House of Lords	Committee inquiry	2017–2021	Funding; charging system; workforce	
'People at the Heart of Care' white paper	White paper	2021	Service delivery; workforce; data and technology	Health and Care Act 2022
Report from the government-commissioned review by Camilla Cavendish	Government-commissioned review	2022	Service delivery; regulation; data and technology; workforce	Health and Care Act 2022
Reports from 3 committee inquiries in the House of Commons and House of Lords	Committee inquiry	2022	Workforce; funding; service delivery	
Report from the Archbishops' Commission chaired by Anna Dixon	Commission	2023	Service delivery; governance; unpaid carers; charging system	
Report from the public accounts committee inquiry on 'Reforming adult social care'	Committee inquiry	2024	Governance; workforce; data	

As they said in the summary to their report:

Adult social care in England desperately needs reform and investment. Amid reports the government is considering a new Royal Commission to establish cross-party consensus on social care reform, we look back at the approaches and proposals of previous similar reviews.

Overall, these policy reviews have made little headway towards tackling the problems in social care. Whether this government's attempt at reform succeeds where others have failed will depend largely on political will and committing to providing the long-term investment needed.

Streeting has indicated three things with his announcement:

- * There will be no money for any planned changes, or he would have adopted previous recommendations.
- * He has no desire to solve this problem, or he could use the previous reports as the basis for making progress.
- * He wants this issue to be left for the next government, post 2029, to solve.

In summary, he has no political will or long-term commitment to solve this problem. That summarises just about everything that needs to be known about Wes Streeting.