

# Engaging and empowering communities:

Our shared commitment and call to action



Easy Read Executive Summary



Public sector leaders and people who use services have come together to develop a shared understanding about health and social care.



The Chief Executive of NHS England says groups across the country should join together to give communities more power and more say in how health and care services are run.



If they cannot do that, they may fail to give everyone good care.



This document is about the ways communities can be made stronger and more inclusive.



It was written by people who use services, carers and practitioners working together.



The law says that health and social care services need to include communities in the work they do as strong communities can support our health and wellbeing.

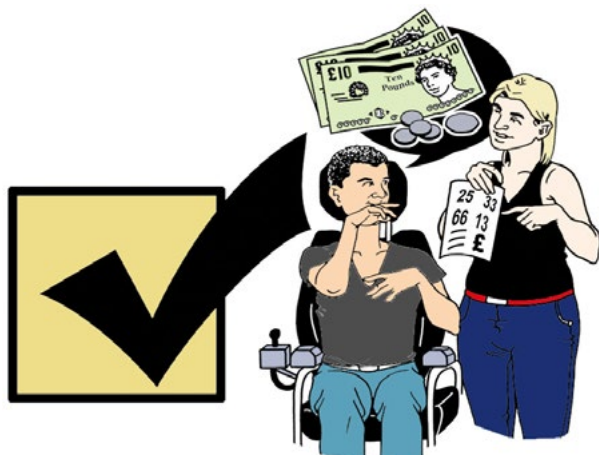




Health and social care services need to focus on prevention and wellbeing so that people stay healthy and connected.



Health and social care services also need to work with community members and help people look after themselves.



Doing this can give the results people care about the most while still being good value for money.



Local areas can decide what they want to do, but there are some ideas that everyone who wants to give more power to communities should follow:



- Recognise that people have skills and knowledge that can and should be used in their community.



- Use co-production to make sure that people's lived experience is used as well as professional opinions.



- Make sure that everyone is connected socially to other people.



- Make sure communities value diversity and have equal access for everyone in their community.



- Let public services and practitioners share power with the community and give control to people, including people who are not often heard.



Leaders, carers and people who use services have agreed to do the following things to help build strong communities:



- Use Health and Wellbeing Boards to raise awareness in communities and to give them more power.



- Commissioners to use the experience and knowledge of the people who use public services to improve those services.



- Health and care services will measure how much services improve when people in communities are involved in helping to design them.



- Everyone has to make sure that communities are at the centre of health and social care systems.



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