

Director of Adult Social Services Perspectives and national work with the Building the Right Support Board

James Bullion, Executive Director of Adult Social Services at Norfolk County Council, ADASS Immediate Past President

30th November 2021



About ADASS



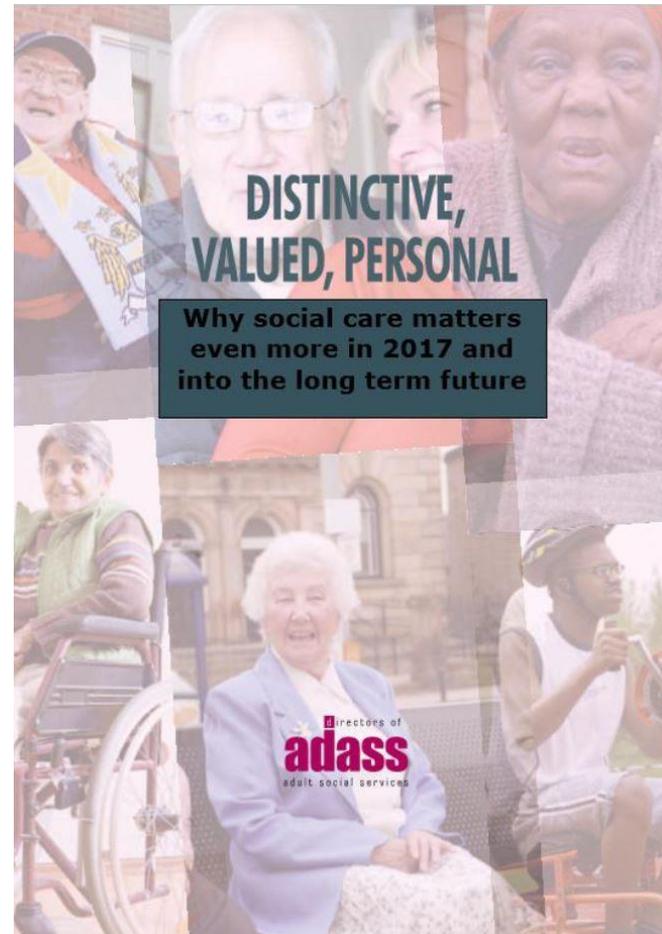
ADASS is a charity. Our members are current and former directors of adult care and their senior staff. Our charitable objectives include:

- Furthering comprehensive, equitable, social policies and plans which reflect and shape the economic and social environment of the time
- Furthering the interests of those who need social care services regardless of their backgrounds and status and
- Promoting high standards of social care services

Social care provides care, support, and safeguards for those people in our communities who have the highest level of need and for their carers.

Good care and support transforms lives, helping people to live good lives, or the best they can, in a variety of circumstances. It enhances health and wellbeing, increasing independence, choice and control. It is distinctive, valued, and personal.

The principles that drive our work



Social Work with Adults is Distinctive

- Wide range of needs covered: 18 – 100+ year olds
- It helps people to live as independently as possible
- It safeguards people in vulnerable situations
- It balances risks with rights and offers essential help at times of crisis.

Social work is Valued

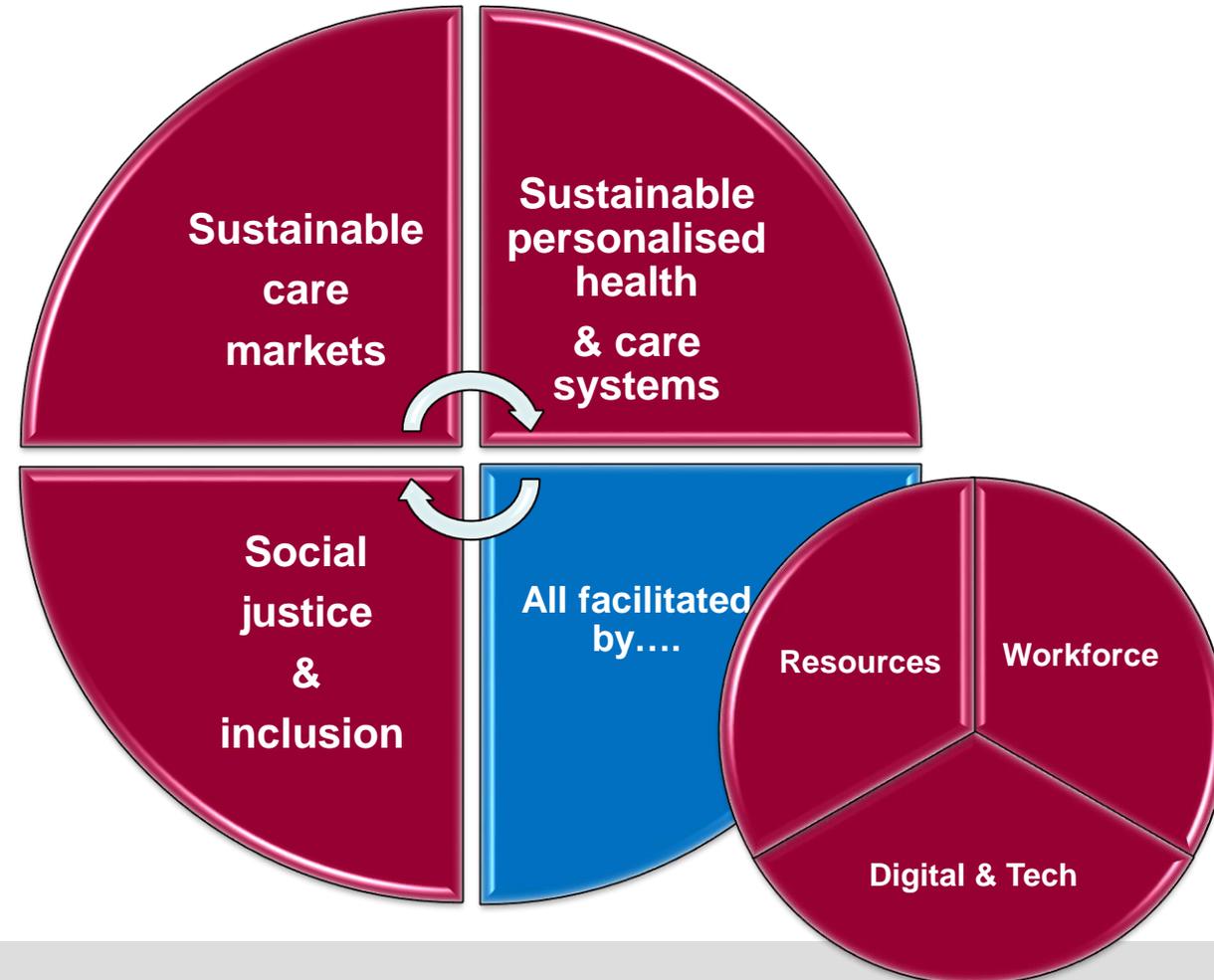
- Personalised and empowering approaches with people. Many local authorities have worked hard in challenging financial circumstances to give people greater choice and control.
- What outcomes do you want? What are the options open to you? What are the risks and benefits of those options?

Social Work is Personal

- It sits within a wider network of personal and social relationships in the community.
- It sees us as individuals, living in relationships and as people living in communities
- Personalisation starts with the individual, rather than the service and recasts the relationship between professionals, organisations, and the people they serve..

The quality and sufficiency of these services is a key barometer of a decent society.

ADASS's priorities for the next three years



Social Justice and Inclusion

- Social Justice and Inclusion is at the heart of social care and social work, and forms the value base of ADASS.
- In all that ADASS does the voice of people with lived experience will be central and we will call out and address social exclusion and injustice when we see it.
- Our focus remains in ensuring that those of us who are excluded or who have their personal liberties and human rights compromised can access the care, support and safeguards they need.
- There is targeted support and intervention to address inequalities relating to poor health and social outcomes and experiences and we support people to live good lives in their communities.
- Under the banner of our Social Justice and Inclusion priority we focus upon those of us who have a learning disability, autistic people, those experience mental health or mental illness, people in contact with the criminal justice system, family carers and the wider theme of equality, diversity and inclusion.

ADASS/LGA Joint vision



Supporting and valuing adults with a learning disability and/or autism, and their families/carers, to live safe, well and fulfilled lives in communities

Underpinning the vision are the following shared principles:

- **Inclusion** – supporting people to have good lives in our communities and to be treated with dignity and respect
- **Access to the same opportunities and services** – contributing to community life, social and leisure opportunities, housing, banking, jobs, health and transport
- **Person centred planning and support** – involving people, families and carers in solutions that respond to the individual strengths and needs of each person
- **Safeguarding** – be safe in communities and free from the risk of discrimination, hate crime and abuse
- **Commitment** to focussing and developing sustainable models of support
- **Progression** – recognising that people with disabilities (including the most complex) have the potential to progress and develop.



Building the Right Support Service Model (2015)

- *“Children, young people and adults with a learning disability and/or autism who display behaviour that challenges, including those with a mental health condition have the right to the same opportunities as anyone else to live satisfying and valued lives and, to be treated with the same dignity and respect. They should have a home within their community, be able to develop and maintain relationships and get the support they need to live a healthy, safe and fulfilling life.”*

Building the Right Support 2021

BTRS Delivery Board convened by Helen Whately to move forward on BTRS Senior level representation – ADASS James Bullion, LGA Sarah Pickup, meets quarterly

Key workstreams:

- Best practice models of community support, including in a crisis (Advisory Group/LGA/ADASS/DHSC)
- Improving transition into adulthood, especially for autistic young people (DfE)
- Reducing number of inpatients under MOJ restrictions (MOJ)
- Addressing funding flows issues (DHSC)
- Addressing lack of supported housing (MHCLG)
- Having the right workforce (DHSC,HEE,SfC)

BTRS Advisory Group

Advisory group comprises people with lived experience, family carers and leads of key voluntary sector organisations

Group leading with LGA/ADASS on community support workstream

Objective is to develop an evidence base and principle of “what good looks like” in terms of community services across England for autistic adults and/or adults who have a learning disability

The advisory group has three areas of focus in terms of the examples they are looking at.

- People, their rights and a good life
- Commissioning for wellbeing
- Community assessment and robust support when people want or need help, including crisis support

Systematic information gathering and publication of final report to include case studies, tools etc

Covid-19 has shown:

- Long-known systemic weaknesses in areas such as funding, workforce, markets and political commitment hampered the pandemic response and have been exacerbated by Covid.
- Local and regional leadership by local authorities has been decisive in mobilising a complex and disaggregated system. Local solutions and collaboration are critical to solving local problems
- Parity of esteem between health and care is lacking – social care staff and the people they support have appeared to be an afterthought.
- The NHS cannot be fixed without fixing social care.
- Relationships between commissioners and providers locally have in many cases become closer and more collaborative, though the system is exceptionally financially fragile (cf. NAO, March 21).
- The need for agreement on what data needs to be collected, how and why to ensure we understand the state of the sector. Capacity Tracker has been a burden on providers and often those providing data are not sure why it is needed or how it is used.

Continuing Issues

- Increased demand on Adult Social Care as a result of the pandemic is straining the sector and having a detrimental impact on people's lives in terms of unmet and undermet need, with assessments and reviews being delayed: the ASC equivalent of NHS waiting lists
- The case for transformation of care models is more urgent than ever – eg there will be an acceleration in the desire for home-based alternatives to institutional care
- Short term funding has been welcome in keeping the sector afloat, but it is still at a cliff-edge with no certainty about long-term funding
- Lack of parity of esteem (eg mandatory vaccination for care home staff alone) combined with exhaustion, and higher rates of pay in other sectors is causing low morale and a crisis in retention.
- Existing inequalities have been widened – eg mortality rates of people with learning disabilities

The Challenge – Twelve Months and Beyond

- Funding and sustainability – this year and next - fires everywhere!
- Getting through Winter
- Learning from Covid-19
- Reform – we have a fantastic opportunity to grasp the nettle

Thank you for listening