



Department
of Health &
Social Care

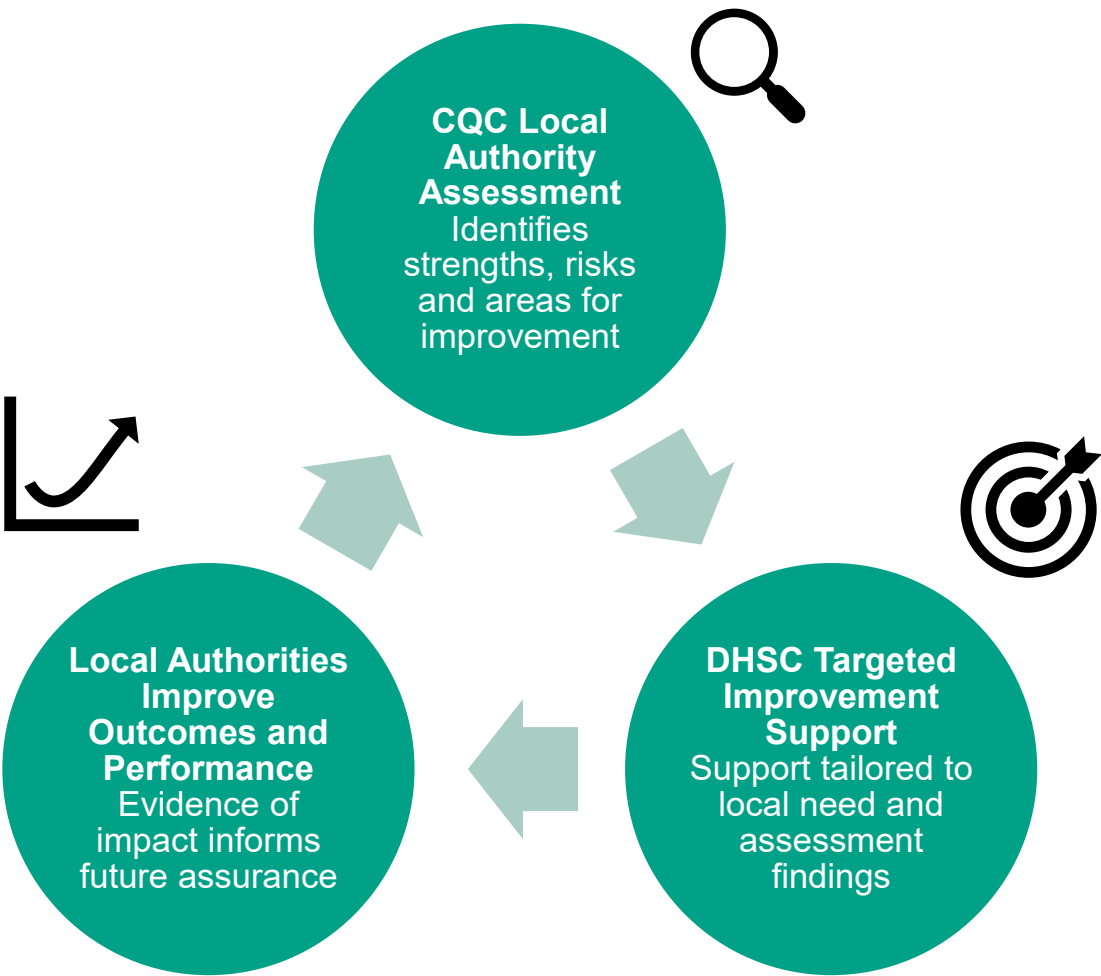
Reflections on adult social care assurance and Secretary of State's priorities

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CQC's Local Authority Assessments alongside DHSC's improvement support offer are key components of a coherent, maturing assurance system for adult social care - aligning to this government's ambition to build a National Care Service.



We do not deliver assurance in isolation – a collaborative approach with LAs and DASSs is essential to effective oversight and assurance.

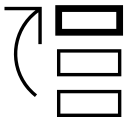
In recent years, the department has been strengthening its oversight and assurance of the sector, notably through the **introduction of CQC assessments** of LAs, collecting **better LA data** (such as through client level data) and **bolstering sector engagement**.



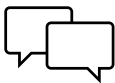
CQC provides formal assessment of delivery against the Care Act 2014: which allows us to determine whether an LA is meeting statutory duties or failing. Our SoS interventions powers are in place to address failure.



We monitor key market and systems data at LA level: this enables us to understand if risks and pressures are materialising across the sector as anticipated.



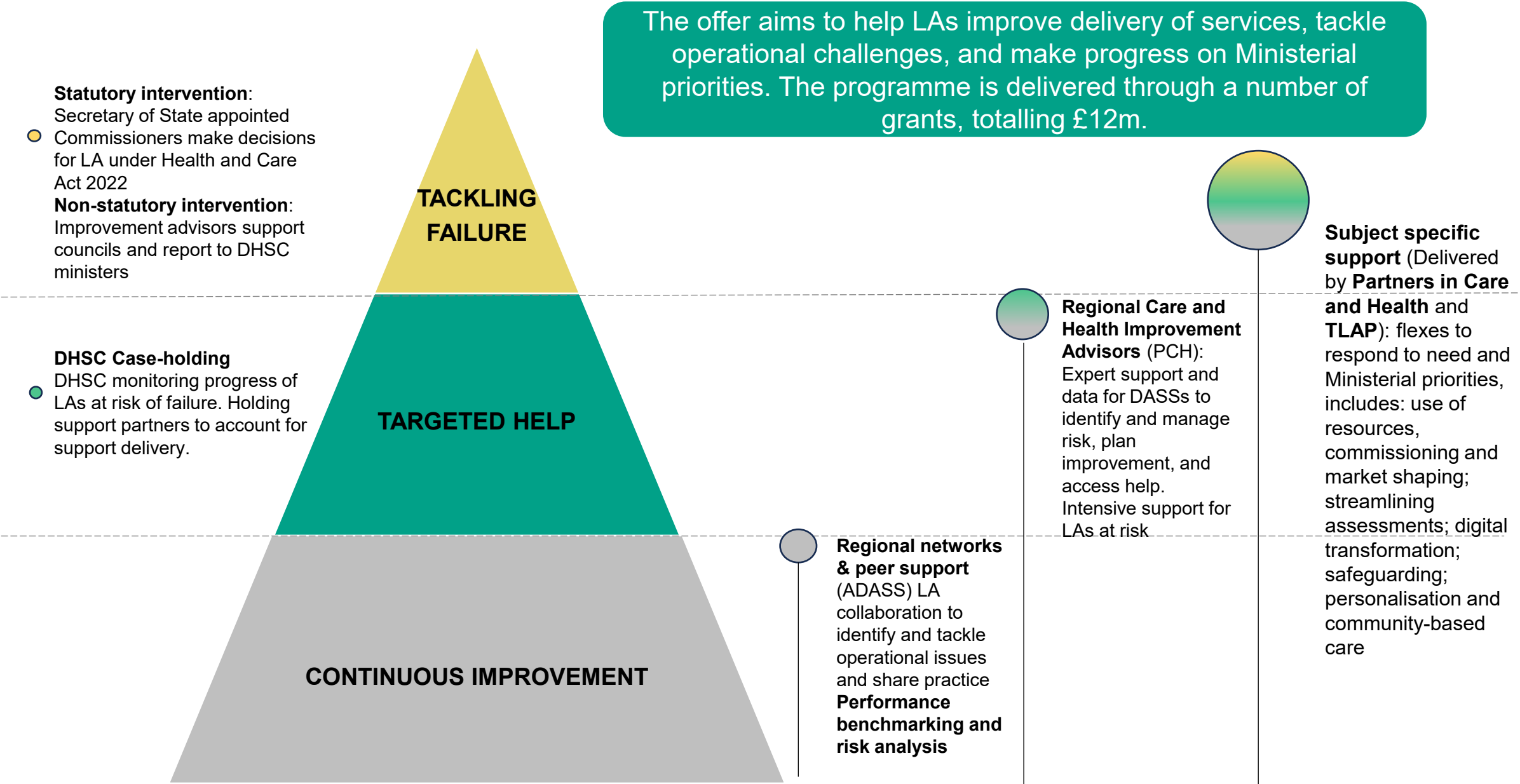
We set priority outcomes and expectations for LA delivery of adult social care: to make progress towards this government's vision for greater quality, more independence, choice and control and better joined-up services.



We routinely engage directly with the sector: we have engaged with many LAs on winter and budget pressures and on impacts of local government reorganisation. Direct engagement with LAs is critical to understanding emerging risks, pressures and challenges in delivering adult social care.



We collaborate with sector partners to provide an escalating support and improvement offer to LAs.



We are working with LAs, Improvement Advisors and cross-government colleagues to understand what makes for a successful improvement journey.

Our principles in working with LAs:

Clear expectations

Consistency

Transparency

Listening

Key factors for sustainable improvement:



Support from the wider professional community



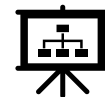
Commitment from senior leadership



Deep dives and reflection



Co-production with staff and residents



Governance and structures



Prioritisation and sequencing of actions



Our future priorities for adult social care assurance

Supporting LAs through Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Working collaboratively to identify and get ahead of emerging risks

Understanding the impact of the current support and improvement offer

Reflecting on learnings from improvement activity undertaken so far

