

Better community care thanks to nursing funding boost

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Around 80,000 people will be better supported in the community following an increase in funding for nursing care.

Care homes providing tailored nursing care to patients in the community will benefit from a funding rise of more than 5% to provide specialist care for some of the most vulnerable.

This will help reduce the pressure on hospitals by preventing unnecessary admissions and supporting the discharge of individuals into social care settings to free up hospital beds.

The uplift means the standard weekly rate per person provided for NHS-funded nursing care will increase from £254.06 to £267.68 from 1 April, with funding paid by the NHS directly to care homes providing nursing care. The higher weekly rate will increase from £349.50 to £368.24.

The increase in rates is backed by the funding made available for 2026/27 at the latest Spending Review and comes alongside a series of measures the government has taken to improve adult social care as it lays the foundation for a National Care Service.

The government is committed to building a National Care Service based on high-quality care, choice and control.

To deliver this the government is making an additional £4.6 billion in funding available to local authorities for 2028/29 - compared to 2025/26 - for adult social care by the end of this Parliament. This includes £500 million for the first ever fair pay agreement for care workers.

In addition, the government has made £723 million for the Disabled Facilities Grant for 2026/27 and provided both the biggest uplift to the carer's allowance threshold since the 1970s to support unpaid carers and the biggest increase to the Minimum Income Guarantee in a decade, to support disabled adults with the cost of living.

Baroness Louise Casey is chairing the Independent Commission into adult social care as part of our critical steps towards delivering a National Care Service. Her first recommendations for reform are due to be published this year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/better-community-care-thanks-to-nursing-funding-boost>