

Annexe A: Consultation questions

The consultation questions are as follows and are grouped by each of the 5 elements of the consultation proposals:

Build the evidence base

1. How should Quality Standards in social care balance guidance on service practice, cost-effectiveness, what matters to people and outcome expectations?
2. How can we categorise Quality Standards in adult social care, and what should be the topics for the first Quality Standards?
3. How can Quality Standards be developed to support service users as commissioners, and local people in their role to hold councils to account?

Demonstrate progress

4. Do you agree with proposals for a single data set for adult social care, supported by a single collection and publication portal?
5. Do you support the case for a set of consistent outcome-focused measures, which combine the best available data on social care outcomes?
6. Do the four domains and outcome statements proposed adequately capture the breadth of outcomes which are relevant at the highest level to adult social care?
7. Do you have any further views on how adult social care should align with other sectors to support integrated working? How might this be put into practice?

Support transparency

8. Do you support the proposal to replace annual assessments of councils conducted by the regulator with public-facing local accounts on quality and outcomes in adult social care?
9. Do you have any local examples and evidence of the benefits of a local account-type approach?
10. What is your view on the balance between requiring standard elements in reports, and allowing freedom to fit to local circumstances?
11. The proposed accounts would only apply to council commissioners. What further actions, if any, might be considered to promote transparency amongst service providers?
12. Would you support an assurance role for the local HealthWatch in the production of accounts?
13. We would also be keen to receive views on whether user and carer-led assessments could support transparency and empower local people?

Reward and incentivise

14. What role is there for financial incentives on providers or commissioners at a national level to support the focus on quality and outcomes?

Secure the foundations

15. How should the Care Quality Commission ensure that future service inspections are risk-based and proportionate?
16. Does the regulatory model of registration, compliance and inspection provide sufficient safeguards for ensuring minimum quality standards across adult social care?
17. How best might independent monitoring of local council arrangements for managing services be secured?

Available outcome-focused measures from 2011/12

18. Are these the most appropriate criteria for assessing measures? Should other areas be considered?

19. Throughout the outcome domains, we would be grateful for your views on the particular measures proposed, in particular: Their fit within the relevant domain and how they effect the balance of the set of measures as a whole; How they support joint working with the NHS and other partners; What interventions you think contribute towards the improvement in outcomes in this domain, and what evidence there may be locally on their cost-effectiveness; and, What further proposals which may be available from 2011/12.

20. What are your views on the proposal to repeat the Carers' Survey every two years to provide a more regular comparable source of data on outcomes for this group?

21. What are your views on designing common models for capturing outcome information at the local level, which would be adopted on a standard basis?