

Chapter 11: Adult social care

This lecture is designed to introduce students to the notion of adult social care and some of the main issues that they will face. It has limited technical information; that comes later! Some additional slides for this year show how Covid-19 has revealed and exacerbated the flaws of the current system of adult social care.

After the outline slide, slide 3 defines adult social care. Of course you could usefully look at another definition of adult social care. For instance the National Audit Office, in its report, *Adult Social Care at a Glance*, July 2018, provides a definition as follows:

Adult social care covers social work, personal care and practical support for adults with a physical disability, a learning disability, or physical or mental illness, as well as support for their carers. Adults with care needs cannot perform some activities of daily living such as washing, dressing, cooking, and shopping without support. These needs are often multiple and interrelated with other needs. Adult social care is therefore part of a complex system of related public services and forms of support.

Slide 4 looks at the extent of demand and provision. You should update these statistics. The national audit office report provides useful information on the amount of resources devoted to adult social care.

Slide 5 looks at the role of local authorities. It is important to stress the complexity of the role, and the extent to which it has moved from being the key provider.

Slide 6 looks at the health/social care divide. You can find more information on how to improve joint working in the National Audit office report, the Health and Social Care interface July 2018 <https://www.nao.org.uk/report/the-health-and-social-care-interface/>

Slide 7 looks at the crisis in Adult Social Care. It might be an idea to ask students what they think is wrong with provision before looking at this slide.

Slide 8 is designed to remind students of the overarching legal responsibilities they have in relation to adult social care. The details of the legal framework will be dealt with later. For now these overarching frameworks, national and international, are worth stressing.

Slide 9 stresses the role of dignity in the provision of services, something which is easy to forget, but provides a meaning to the law.

Slides 10 – 12 provide information about the impact of Covid19 on adult social care services during the first wave of the pandemic. You can use these slides to promote discussion about the lack of priority given to adult social care provision and to elderly people in general. The impact of the pandemic on low paid and undervalued care workers is also relevant. The legal technical responses to Covid 19 are dealt with elsewhere. .