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NEWS RELEASE

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Support for cap on care costs reaches record high, Just Group tracker finds

- Lord Bethell confirms further delay to government's care policy reforms¹
- Meanwhile nearly six in 10 (58%) people support the idea of a cap on care costs, jumping to two-thirds (65%) of over 75s
- Support for the idea is at its highest level since Just Group started tracking it in 2014

Research finds that a cap on care costs is the favoured option among Brits for funding long-term care – and support has reached its highest level since **Just Group**, the care finance specialist, first started tracking it².

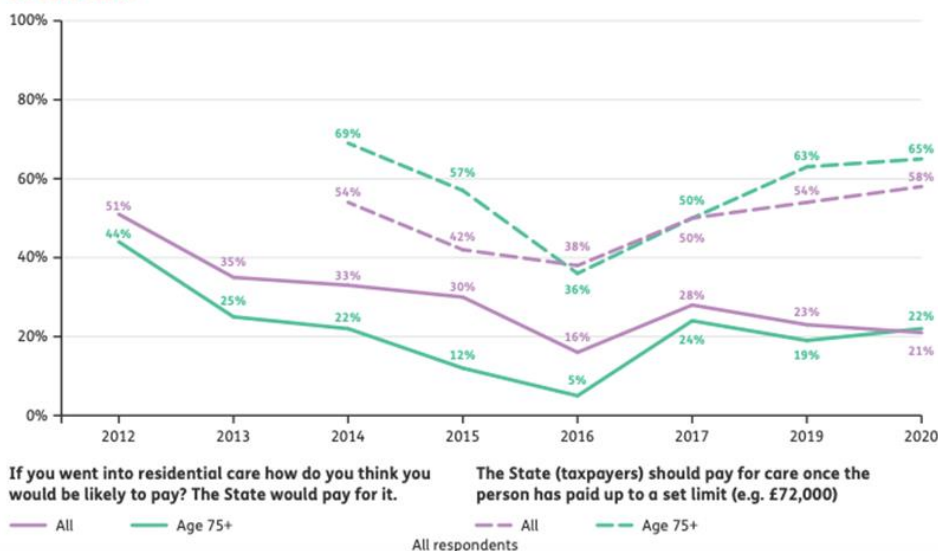
The latest Just Group Care Report found that nearly three-fifths (58%) of over 45s support the idea, as proposed by the Dilnot Commission in 2011, which would limit the amount an individual has to pay for care before the State steps in.

Just Group started asking the question in 2014 and although support initially dipped it has now risen to its highest ever level, with even stronger support among over 75s as nearly two-thirds (65%) of this group support the idea of a cap.

Stephen Lowe, group communications director at Just Group, believes the figures demonstrate a growing realism about the cost of care among the public who firmly place responsibility for setting a clear policy at the government's door.

"Funding social care has been a perennial problem that's dogged governments for decades now. Despite all the talk about solving the care crisis and delivering a sustainable policy the public has seen precious little progress in the last 20 years. This government doesn't appear to be breaking the mould as yet another delay was quietly slipped out in the House of Lords last week.

Trend over time of expectation the State would pay for social care and attitudes towards a cap on care costs



“While the coronavirus pandemic has been the focus of attention for the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, they cannot kick the can down the road for much longer.

“These findings demonstrate that support for a model that shares cost between the individual and the State has reached its highest level since we started running the research in 2014. The public recognises they will have to make some contribution to the cost of care but they also want some certainty on how much that will be – and, quite rightly, are looking to the government to make that clear.

“But there’s little public confidence – even among Conservative voters – that the Prime Minister will fulfil his pledge³ to “fix” social care policy in this parliament.”

Only 43% of people who voted Conservative in the last General Election are confident the Prime Minister will produce a social care policy before the end of this Parliament and only a third (35%) think he can put that social care policy into practice.

Unsurprisingly, trust among voters for other political parties is at rock bottom – just 3% of Labour and Liberal Democrat voters are confident in Mr Johnson’s ability to produce a policy, and 2% among both parties’ voter base believe he will implement it this Parliament.

“Voters have heard it all before so it’s no surprise they’re extremely sceptical of yet another promise to implement a policy within four years,” said Stephen Lowe. “Absence of consensus has been used as an excuse for lack of political progress but perhaps the barrier is more a lack of political courage.

“People are open to the idea of sharing the cost between the individual and the State, and they want a solid outcome they can plan around. Our research shows that the absence of a practical solution appears to worry people more than the finer points of the solution itself.

“Planning later life care is difficult, it’s emotional and at the moment deeply unpredictable. This lack of policy coupled with constant talk of change leaves some of the most vulnerable in our society even more exposed to poor outcomes as they put off making plans.”

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Notes to Editors:

Research

1. **House of Lords**, Covid-19: NHS Long-term Plan, September 15 2020: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2020-09-15/debates/A97D2379-244A-477F-8510-62F078C97ED2/details>:

2. **Just Group Care Report 2020**, online survey among 1,002 adults over 45 in England and Northern Ireland, 30 January to 3 February: <https://www.justgroupplc.co.uk/~media/Files/J/JRMS-IR/news-doc/2020/just-care-report-final.pdf>

3. **Boris Johnson's** first speech as UK Prime Minister, July 24 2019: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/boris-johnsons-first-speech-as-prime-minister-24-july-2019>

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