



Delay to care cap would be ‘hammer blow’ for millions waiting to make later life care plans

- Nearly 6 in 10 over 75s are waiting for care-funding reforms to be implemented before making financial plans for later-life care
- Lack of planning condemns millions to last-minute decisions and poorer outcomes

Postponing or cancelling the implementation of the £86,000 social care cap would be a “hammer blow” to the millions of people in England waiting for the government to introduce their policy for funding long-term care before taking action, according to retirement specialist Just Group.

Research for the **Just Group Care Report 2022** – [Social Care: A Decade in Review¹](#) – found nearly six in 10 (59%) of over 75s – equivalent to nearly three million people – were delaying making their own financial plans for any residential care they may need until government policy is successfully implemented.

Planning for care gives people more choice of when and where they receive care and the standard of care obtained. It also means less stress at the point of going into a care home which can be an emotionally charged time for both the resident and their family.

Current levels of understanding of how the care system works and how it is funded are at rock-bottom and likely to fall further if the introduction of a cap on care costs and revised means-test limits don’t happen in October 2023 as the government has planned.

Stephen Lowe, group communications director at retirement specialist Just Group, said the implementation of a new policy is a perfect opportunity to begin to reverse a dismal decade of policy confusion and inaction.

"You can’t expect people to engage with care planning when the goalposts keep moving. It is only by sticking to the announced plan and communicating the policy details that people will have confidence to start putting in place arrangements.

“Our tenth anniversary report looked forward to a brighter future built on a clear plan and timetable. Yet already there is speculation the care reforms will be delayed or even scrapped, another casualty of a government struggling to govern.

“It is a catastrophic failure to deliver on much-needed reforms which were so close and yet now seem so far away and will be a hammer blow for families up and down the country.

“Without planning, decisions must be made at the point of need when emotions are often running high, choices are more limited and family members may not agree on the best course of action.

“The number of over-85s in the UK is expected to nearly double in size to 3.1 million people by 2045 which is going to ratchet up pressure on the care system year by year. We urge the government to stick to their original timetable so that people in England can plan securely and confidently for any care needs they may require to help them achieve a better later-life.”

Enquiries

Media

Stephen Lowe, Group Communications Director

Lucy Grubb, Head of Media & PR

Telephone: +44 (0) 1737 827 301
press.office@wearejust.co.uk

Temple Bar Advisory

Alex Child-Villiers
William Barker
Sam Livingstone

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7183 1190

Notes to Editors:

About the research

1: Just Group Care Report 2022 – Social Care: A decade in review:

<https://www.justgroupplc.co.uk/~media/Files/J/JRMS-IR/news-doc/2022/just-1863-10th-anniversary-2022-care-report.pdf>

About Just

Just (Just Group plc) is a FTSE-listed specialist UK financial services company.

A leader in the individual retirement income, care and defined benefit de-risking markets, Just has been trusted to manage around £23 billion of customers' retirement savings and has helped customers release more than £6 billion from their properties.

Just provides the following wide range of products, advice and professional services to individual customers, financial intermediaries, corporate clients and pension scheme trustees:

Marketed Products

- De-risking solutions for pension scheme trustees who want to remove the financial uncertainty of operating defined benefit pension schemes;
- Individually underwritten retirement income products delivering a guaranteed income for life;
- Long term care plans that provide those people moving into residential care with peace of mind by knowing a regular payment will be made to the care provider for the rest of their life;
- Lifetime mortgages for people who want to safely release some of the value from their home.

Professional services

- Regulated financial advice and guidance services for individuals wanting help in using their pension savings and/or releasing some of the value from their home; and
- A range of business services tailored for our corporate clients, ranging from consultancy and software development to fully outsourced customer service delivery and marketing services.

The companies within Just Group are authorised and regulated in the United Kingdom by the Financial Conduct Authority and / or the Prudential Regulation Authority.

