

Archbishops' Commission on Reimagining Care

Terms of Reference

July 2021

“Caring equally for the health of all, regardless of perceived economic or societal value, is a clear sign of our values... The lifeboat of social care appears to be adopting a class- and wealth-based preference system. It no longer reflects a commitment to the common good, or solidarity between generations and between the rich and the poor. It is not consistent or resilient, or – on its present basis – sustainable.

A reimagination of Britain as a country in which human beings flourish has to put high-quality social care, public and mental health at the heart of its objectives.”

Justin Welby, Reimagining Britain: Foundations for Hope

1. Aims

The aims of the Commission are:

- a) To develop a radical and inspiring long-term vision for care and support in England, underpinned by a renewed set of values and principles, drawing on Christian theology and ethics.
- b) To stimulate a national debate about the nature and purpose of care and to offer practical recommendations to national and local government, policymakers, the care sector and society as a whole, about how to deliver this vision for care.
- c) To address wider issues that affect the status and well-being of people in later life and adults with disabilities or disabling conditions. This will include addressing the barriers that prevent all of us from enjoying full citizenship, contributing and participating as fully as possible to our communities and wider society.
- d) To propose areas for further action by the Church of England, learning from other denominations and faith communities, on ways to support people who draw on care to live well in the community.

The Commission recognises the importance of a number of related issues but will not consider them within its scope that fall outside its remit:

Children's social care

Assisted dying, palliative and hospice care

2. Structure

The Commission will comprise 10 members appointed to bring specific areas of expertise and personal experience.

The Commission will be responsible for:

1. Ensuring that the work of the Commission has a clear Christian theological and ethical foundation.
2. Providing a report and other resources that will be accessible and challenging both to the Church and in the public square.
3. Engaging with and listening to the views and voices of those who draw on care and those who provide care and support (both paid and unpaid).
4. Bringing specialist advice, experience and expertise to inform the work, and addressing issues of diversity and inequality throughout.
5. Ensuring that the outputs and deliverables of the Commission make a practical contribution to public debates on care and support for people in later life and people with disability or disabling conditions.
6. Coordinating its activities as needed with the Archbishops' Families and Households Commission and other relevant initiatives, as well as ensuring the work of the Commission informs government policy on this matter as it is developed.

3. Work streams

The Commission may establish work streams or time limited working groups on particular issues/themes. These might be along the lines of the following:

1. The theology and enduring ethical values underpinning our understanding of care and support.
2. Future models of care and support that are shaped by those who draw on care and those who provide care and support (paid and unpaid).
3. The role of the church, faith groups and communities in enabling people to live well in community.
4. The principles for public policy, funding and reform necessary for implementing the vision.

4. Timelines

The Commission was officially announced in April 2021. The first meeting of the Commission took place in June 2021.

The Commission will carry out the bulk of its work over 12 months with a final report planned for September 2022. The Commission wishes to engage with a wide diversity of organisations and individuals to inform its work, and plans to invite input at various stages of its work and may publish other working documents.
