

Long-term care in the United Kingdom (United-Kingdom)

The long-term care system provides support for those with long-term health conditions. It is undergoing a transition as the focus shifts from residential care in hospitals, nursing homes and care homes to treating and supporting people in their own homes. This is being driven by both a desire amongst older people for greater independence and choice in later life, and a need to manage the increasing financial pressures an ageing population creates. The challenge to society is enormous, the commercial opportunities are large, and a significant policy response is emerging. This transition is being facilitated by new assisted living technologies and associated changes in how the care system operates. Long-term care is changing in two distinct ways. Firstly, the nature of treatment and support is changing focus from residential care to assisted living. Secondly, the way treatment is delivered is shifting from patients taking what the NHS and local authorities provide, to patients having greater choice and flexibility with the option of procuring directly from suppliers.

LinkToContentAt:

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Knowledge Type: [Country report](#) [1]

Other Tag: [trust](#) [2]

[uncertainty](#) [3]

[diffusion](#) [4]

[early stage](#) [5]

[government procurement](#) [6]

[health care](#) [7]

[innovation skills](#) [8]

[knowledge transfer](#) [9]

[market failure](#) [10]

[business models](#) [11]

[policy coordination](#) [12]

[public awareness](#) [13]

[research council](#) [14]

[research projects](#) [15]

[social challenges](#) [16]

[supply chains](#) [17]

[system failures](#) [18]

[systems innovation](#) [19]

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Links

[1] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/knowledge-type/country-report>

[2] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/trust>

[3] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/uncertainty>

[4] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/diffusion>

[5] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/early-stage>

[6] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/government-procurement>

[7] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/health-care>

[8] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/innovation-skills>

[9] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/knowledge-transfer>

[10] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/market-failure>

[11] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/business-models>

[12] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/policy-coordination>

[13] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/public-awareness>

[14] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/research-council>

[15] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/research-projects>

[16] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/social-challenges>



[17] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/supply-chains>

[18] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/system-failures>

[19] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/systems-innovation>