

- ♦ Consult on introducing five days' paid additional 'care leave' a year for carers who qualify for the Carer's Allowance.
- ♦ Give the NHS a legal duty to identify carers and develop a Carer's Passport scheme to inform carers of their rights in the NHS, like more flexible visiting hours, assert their role as expert partners in care and gain access to support.

5.8 Improving social care

Although we want to support people to remain independent as long as possible, many people will eventually need to rely on the care system. Liberal Democrats fought hard to secure the cap on the cost of care that will be introduced in 2017, but the quality of care is vital too.

We have introduced rigorous new inspections under the Chief Inspector of Social Care and new guidance to end the use of fifteen-minute visits. We will end 'care cramming', which turns care workers into clockwatchers rushing between jobs. We are clamping down on care workers being paid less than the National Minimum Wage by resourcing and directing HMRC to pursue and prosecute providers who exploit their staff.

We will:

- ♦ Finish the job of implementing the Dilnot Report proposals for a cap on the cost of social care.
- ♦ Provide more choice at the end of life, and free end-of-life social care for those placed on their local end-of-life register if evidence shows it is affordable and cost effective.
- ♦ Ask the Care Quality Commission to showcase examples of good and bad practice in care commissioning by Councils.
- ♦ Raise the professional status and training of care home managers through statutory licensing.
- ♦ Ensure those who work in the care sector are properly trained and suitable to practice by introducing a statutory code of conduct backed up by a care workers' suitability register.
- ♦ Work with local government and providers to promote paying a Living Wage.