

	DACHS Scrutiny Committee
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Housing & Community Safety
Area for Scrutiny	Housing Futures board
Link to Council Plan	Local priority 6, cleaner, greener and environmentally friendly Local priority 2, regeneration , skills and employment
Context	<p>Affordability dominates the housing market:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an increasing proportion of disposable income being consumed by housing costs, • difficulties for younger people to access the housing ladder, • An increasing 'older' population, • continued and growing demand for social housing in the context of the Right to Buy and replacement agenda, • mismatch in terms of supply and demand exacerbated by the consequences of Welfare Reform.
Rationale	DACHS has established a Housing Futures Board Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Housing & Community Safety. The Shadow Cabinet Member also sits on the Board. Within the above context, the remit of the Board is "to ensure that the existing housing provision and any new housing meets the needs and aspirations of local people". This in turn is intended to promote "social, economic and community regeneration of the Borough".
What are we asking from the Scrutiny Committee?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainability of existing Council Housing provision. 2. Provision of Housing to meet future housing needs.

Adult Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee	
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Area for Scrutiny	Dudley MBC's readiness to implement the Care Bill in April 2015
Link to Council Plan	<p>Council Plan Priority no. 4</p> <p>Ensure people live their lives with dignity and respect, a borough where the elderly and vulnerable have fair access to services which supports independence and quality of life.</p> <p>Our objectives for the future will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable and embed personalised community based support. • Develop sustainable and high quality services which delivery value for money for local people. • Involve and engage people in a meaningful and timely way.

<p>Context</p>	<p>The Care Bill, if enacted, will be introduced from April 2015. The Bill modernises and simplifies the legal framework for social care and introduces some far-reaching changes. This includes responding to the Dilnot Commission on social care funding – resulting in the introduction of a £72,000 care cap.</p> <p>Although still a Bill and subject to further change, the adult social care and scrutiny committee has an opportunity to consider the Council’s state of readiness against the clauses that are most pertinent to the authority.</p> <p>Key new statutory duties are including in the legislation:</p> <p>Prevention – the Bill reflects the shift towards prevention. Local authorities will have a legal duty to prevent, delay and reduce the need for care. This is at the heart of Dudley’s proposals for the Better Care Fund.</p> <p>Integration – the Bill focuses on the integration agenda. Local authorities will have a duty to carry out care and support functions with the aim of integrating services. This duty applies in particular to ‘health-related’ services, but this is described in the broadest sense – e.g. housing is given as an example of a health-related service.</p> <p>Information and Advice – the Bill gives local authorities a duty to promote information and advice in relation to care and support regardless of eligibility. There are key links to the prevention agenda, with good information and advice helping some individuals to be self-supporting and access support within their own community. Information and advice will need to be proportionate to need and fully accessible</p> <p>Eligibility – Currently, each local authority sets its own eligibility threshold based on guidance. This has meant that the amount and type of care can vary depending upon where an individual lives. The Care Bill will introduce a national minimum eligibility threshold. The current understanding is that the threshold is expected to be set at substantial.</p> <p>Assessments – Councils’ responsibilities in terms of assessing for care and support needs will change – with more emphasis being placed on helping people to explore their options and avoid the need for care where possible. Assessments will look at what support might be available from family and in the community to prevent or delay the individual’s wellbeing deteriorating. Once assessed, people will need regular reviews to identify any changes to their care needs and to expenditure that counts towards the care cap.</p> <p>Care and support funding reform – the Bill will introduce a cap on eligible care costs – to be introduced from April 2016. The cap will be £72,000 (for people of state age). Once the cap is reached, the local authority will be eligible to fund additional costs. The £72,000 is the total amount regardless of whether the individual is solely paying for the costs themselves or whether payment is split between them and their local authority.</p>
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<p>Rationale</p>	<p>INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:</p> <p>The aim of the Care Bill is to modernise and simplify the legal framework for social care. The Bill is the Government’s legal response to the recommendations made by the Dilnot Commission on social care funding and the Law Commission in to Adult Social Care which examined how a social care system could be sustained given increased demand.</p> <p>The Bill builds on the Draft Care and Support Bill that was published for consultation in 2012, and the White Paper ‘Caring for our future: reforming care and support’.</p> <p>The Bill is split in to three distinct parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform of care and support; • Response to the Francis Inquiry on failings at Mid Staffordshire Hospital; and • Health Education England and the Health Research Authority. <p>Changes brought about by the Bill, if enacted, are expected to take place from April 2015.</p>
<p>What are we asking from the Scrutiny Committee?</p>	<p>To consider the key clauses contained within the Care Bill mean and scrutinise both the financial and planning implications for the Council.</p> <p>To identify areas for further work and prioritisation; specifically the impacts of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential increase in demand – more people with eligible care needs may contact local authorities; • Financial impact of the cap on eligible care costs • The impact of a new national minimum eligibility standard • Impact on current systems – financial systems will need to be able to support the changes being introduced; and • Information and advice –the information and advice we provide will need to be fit for purpose and able to contribute towards prevention and delaying the need for care and support