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U 'The end of local government as we know it?' Where does social care go from here? B

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Outline

□ Recent history

□ Current challenges/context

□ Current opportunities

□ Implications

1. Recent history

- Separate system of health and social care - assumption that it's meaningful to distinguish between people who are 'sick' and 'frail/disabled'
- One service is free and the other is means-tested - implications for who pays and who provides
- History of cost-shunting (although it's not just the costs that get shunted)
- Boundary has shifted over time
- Crisis-focused approach and ? unsustainable system of long-term care
- Very paternalistic ethos
- Very input/process-based

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2. Current challenges/context

- Demographic changes
- Social changes
- Technological changes
- Changing public expectations
- Difficult financial context (for foreseeable future)

More need and less money – something fundamental has to change

3a. Self-directed support

- Very unusual, bottom-up policy
- From service-led to needs-led/outcomes
- Simplifies assessment process and frees up time for support planning/review and learning
- Challenges traditional assumptions about risk
- Scope to be more asset-based
- Promotes citizenship – if we let it
- Reconnects to underlying social care values?
- Health pilots may bring scope to integrate services bottom-up?

3b. Inter-agency working

- Long emphasis on joint working
- Range of longer-term mechanisms now in place
- Opportunities and challenges of clinical commissioning/Health and Well-being Boards
- Will the financial situation damage relationships or force more rapid integration/joint approaches?
- Importance of 'creating NHS local'

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3c. Prevention and rehabilitation

- ❑ 'Breaking out of the Vicious Cycle' (Audit Commission)

- ❑ 'Inverting the triangle of care' (ADSS/LGA)

- ❑ Demographics make greater prevention fundamental

- ❑ Evidence base = problematic – scope for 'practice-based evidence' rather than 'evidence-based practice'

3d. Focusing on outcomes

Context	→	Process	→	Outcome

In other words:

- ☐ What do we want to achieve? (outcomes)
- ☐ Where are we now? (context)
- ☐ What do we need to do? (process)

4. Implications

- Major changes and challenges ahead
- More direct relationship with individuals & greater flexibility and creativity
- More joined-up approaches
- Importance of innovative approaches to prevention and promoting well-being
- Ability to demonstrate outcomes/VfM crucial
- Will this be enough – and can we deliver it in practice?