



# **BLACK COUNTRY BASW BRANCH MOTION 2 ON SOCIAL CARE**

BASWUK GENERAL MEETING 30/4/2024

## Motion 2: Black Country Branch

This General mandates BASW UK to campaign for improvements to children and adult social care, qualitatively and quantitatively, and for improved finances including for staffing salaries, training and structural developments. We are concerned that a recent Institute for Public Policy Research, a thinktank close to Labour, identifies a Ten-year programme needed to begin to reverse the post 2010 austerity cuts.

We note that, in many local authorities, children's and adult social care are now the main expenditures in local authorities. We note a recent Local Government Association survey identifying that a fifth of Councils may issue s114 ('Bankruptcy') notices by the end of 2024.

We call on BASW to focus, by itself or with other bodies, coming up to the 2024 General Election and beyond, on Social Care as a whole and particularly for the resources to be found in the first five-year term of the next government to properly resource social care. We also call upon BASW to engage members and be open and transparent in its decision making on how it progresses this mandated policy, with regular updates to the membership on the progress of this work.

# A BIGGER CAKE

- IT'S RIGHT THAT WE CAMPAIGN FOR INCREASED SOCIAL WORK RESOURCES BUT WITHOUT A BIGGER CAKE WE'RE IN COMPETITION WITH OTHER LOCAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT NEEDS
- WE NEED TO JOIN OTHERS IN CAMPAIGNING FOR A BIGGER AND WELL PLANNED SOCIAL CARE PLAN OVER SEVERAL YEARS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS
- NOT CLEAR , EVEN WITH A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT THAT THIS WILL OTHERWISE HAPPEN
- BATTLE OF PRIORITIES , EG WITH MILITARY SPENDING , THAT WE NEED TO ADD OUR VOICE TO

# HOW MUCH DO WE NEED- ADULT SOCIAL CARE- THE HEALTH FOUNDATION

- There is no national budget for adult social care. The amount spent is determined by local authorities based on their overall finances and other spending pressures, the amount of targeted funding transferred from the NHS, and central government grants.
- Government has provided additional grants for the next 2 years but the outlook beyond 2025 is uncertain.
- Our analysis suggests the following uplifts to social care funding would be required in order to:
  - **Meet future demand:** £0.6bn by 2024/25 and £8.3bn by 2032/33 (3.4% a year real-terms increase).
  - **Meet future demand and make some improvements to access to care:** £3.1bn by 2024/25 and £11.6bn by 2032/33 (4.3% a year real-terms increase).
  - **Meet future demand and cover the full cost of care:** £5.4bn by 2024/25 and £14.6bn by 2032/33 (5.1% a year real terms increase).
  - **Meet future demand and improve access to care and cover the full cost of care:** £8.4bn by 2024/25 and £18.4bn by 2032/33 (6% a year real-terms increase).

# BUT EXISTING PLANS SCALED BACK: NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE 2023

**12** DHSC has scaled back its short-term plans for system reform and associated funding to £729 million, compared with the £1.74 billion agreed with HM Treasury when DHSC published its white paper in December 2021. In April 2023, DHSC published its updated plans for system reform in *Next steps to put People at the Heart of Care*, provoking widespread disappointment from the sector. DHSC had dropped the white paper commitment to spend £300 million to integrate housing into local health and care strategies and halved allocations for workforce reforms around training, qualifications, and staff wellbeing, from £500 million to “at least” £250 million. Having finalised its budgets by policy area, by October 2023, DHSC had allocated a total of £729 million to its system reform activity; a 58% fall in the budget for system reform between 2022-23 and 2024-25. DHSC has reallocated £1.01 billion to other adult social care priorities, which includes a further £610 million of funding for local authorities to use between 2023-24 and 2024-25. Of this, it allocated £570 million to the Market Sustainability and Improvement Workforce Fund which has a particular focus on improving workforce pay (paragraphs 2.15 to 2.18, and Figures 4 and 5).

# CHILDREN

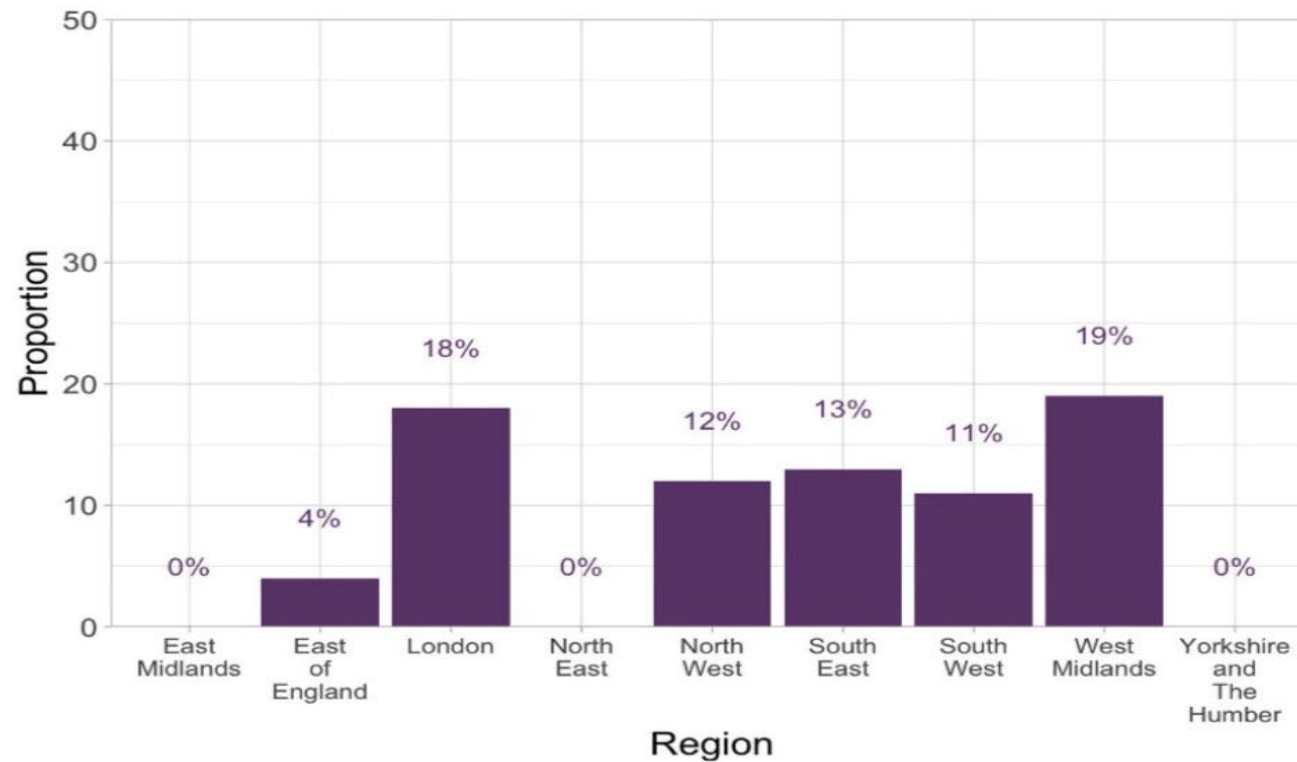
- MACALISTER OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW: £2.6 BILLION NEEDED OVER FOUR YEARS: £46BILL YEAR ONE, £987 YEAR TWO, £1.257 BILL YEAR TWO , £233 YEAR FOUR.
- GOVERNMENT RESPONSE: £200 BILL OVER TWO YEARS, NOT AGREED AFTER THAT
- ISSUES RAISED BY COMPETITION AND MARKETS AUTHORITY OVER THE INCREASING DOMINANCE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN RESIDENTIAL AND FOSTER CARE, AND IN 'SUPPORTED' LODGINGS WITH PROFITS OF 20%+

# WELCOME TO BIRMINGHAM

- ONE OF SEVEN ENGLISH COUNCILS TO APPLY FOR S.114 ('BANKRUPTCY')
- BIG CUTS IN BOTH CHILDREN'S (£115 MIL 2024- 6) CUT) AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE (£77 MIL 24/6 CUT)
- 100% CUTS TO ARTS PROVISION, EG BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET, IKON ART GALLERY, BIRMINGHAM REP, CBSO.. MANY LIBRARIES TO CLOSE...
- 600 JOBS LOST
- CONTEXT OF 40% REAL TERMS CUTS IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF LAS IN LAST 14 YEARS (GUARDIAN 10/9/23 )
- MANY COUNCILS RELYING ON ALTERNATIVE FUNDING: CAR PARK FEES, PROPERTY SPECULATION, TAXI REGISTRATIONS ( NEAR NEIGHBOURS WOLVERHAMPTON HAS REGISTERED 36,000 DRIVERS!) , USE OF 4.99 % SOCIAL CARE LEVY BUT INCREASING SOCIAL CARE CHARGING – AND INCREASING USE OF BAILIFFS....

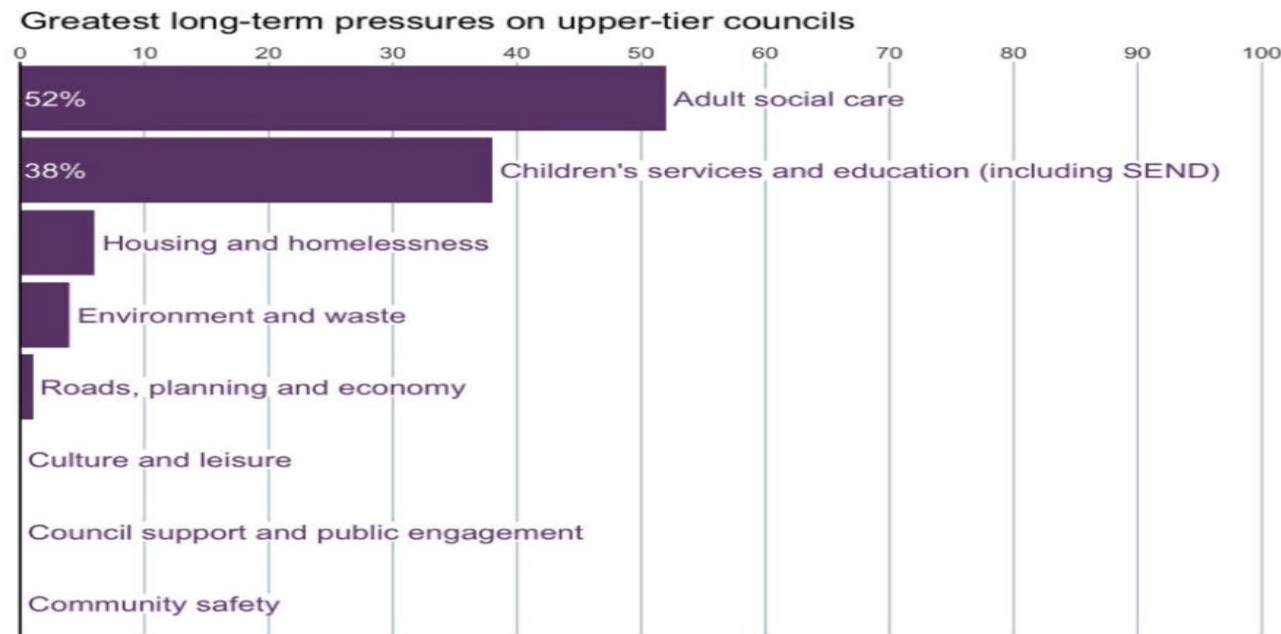
# S114 S LIKELY TO BE REGULAR FROM LGIU COUNCIL SURVEY

Proportion of respondents saying they are likely to issue a section 114 notice in 2024-2025





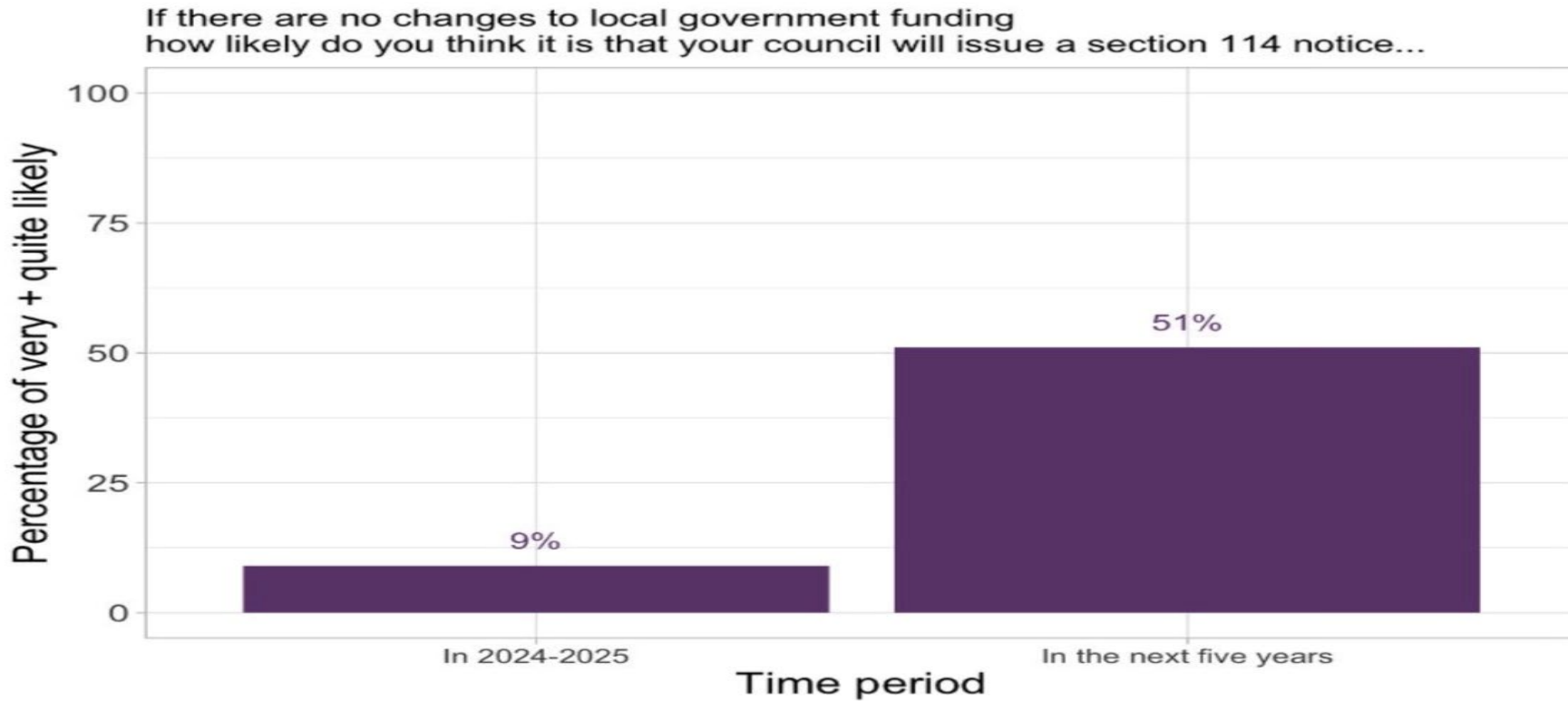
# BIGGEST PRESSURE ON COUNCILS: SOCIAL CARE



The greatest long-term pressure was split between 52% saying adult social care, and 38% children's services, with all other pressures paling in comparison. This is unsurprising when the proportion of upper-tier budgets which go on these services are considered:

*“Four per cent of the population use social care which is 70% of our budget – and you wonder why residents are not happy the place doesn't look spotless and potholes need to be filled. Residents are not happy their council tax goes on so few. Social care needs reform.”*

# 51% PREDICT S.114 IN NEXT 5 YEARS



# S114 CRITERIA

## **Section 114 notices**

A council cannot go bankrupt or into liquidation as an individual or a business can, but if a council's chief finance officer (or equivalent) considers that in-year expenditure is likely to exceed resources available, or if there is no prospect of setting a balanced budget for the forthcoming year, he or she must issue a report (a "section 114 notice"). The issuing of a section 114 notice is generally seen as demonstrating that a council is insolvent. Government intervention usually follows very quickly, all non-essential expenditure may cease, ministers may appoint independent commissioners to take control of the council, and special arrangements to borrow or increase council taxes beyond normal limits may be put in place.

Section 114 notices are relatively rare, but numbers have been growing in recent years and three were issued during 2023, by Woking, Birmingham and Nottingham. So far there have been special circumstances that have led to the issuing of notices, but the survey suggests that there are now many more councils, where special factors are not in play, that are teetering on the edge.

# COMMISSIONERS AREN'T CHEAP (B'HAM MAIL)

## Birmingham commissioner 'hit squad' run up £280,000 bill in three months

Michael Gove's eight commissioners, sent in to oversee council affairs and force through drastic budget cuts, are earning around £100,000 a month between them.



# BASW BLACK COUNTRY MOVE MOTION 2

- NATIONAL FINANCES AND SOCIAL CARE PLANNING NEED VASTLY IMPROVING
- WE NEED THESE IMPROVEMENTS TO START EARLY IN THE NEXT PARLIAMENTARY TERM
- WE ASK BASW TO CAMPAIGN WITH LIKE MINDED ORGANISATIONS FOR SUCH IMPROVEMENTS
- WE ASK BASW TO MAKE SURE MEMBERS ARE INVOLVED IN PLANNING AND PRACTICE OF SUCH CAMPAIGNING