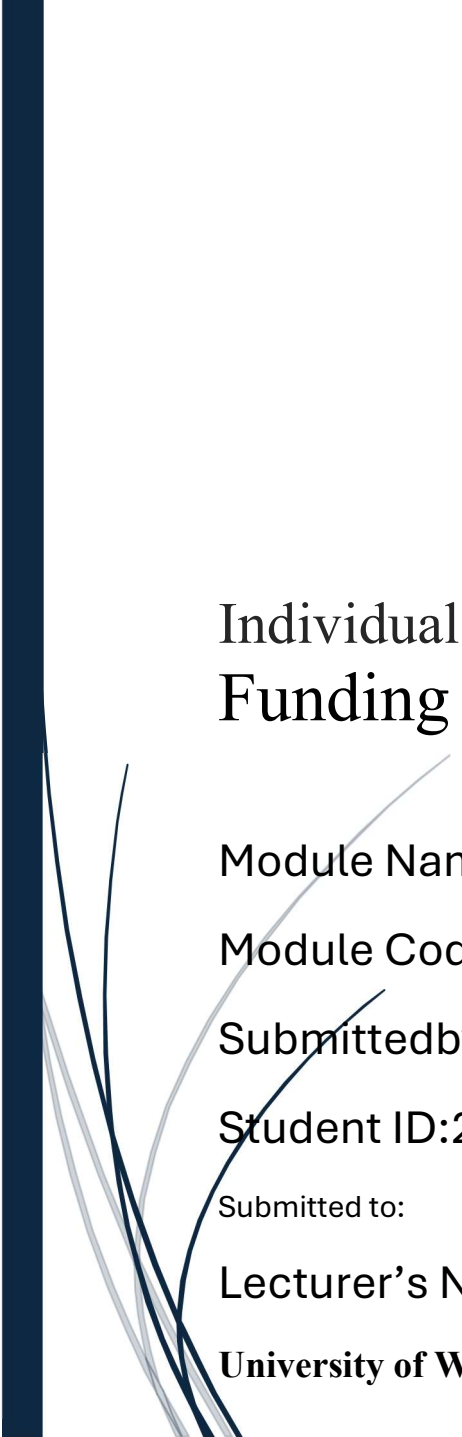




Individual Report

Funding Challenges in Social Care

Module Name: Digital Skills and Research Methods

Module Code: LCHS 4007

Submitted by: Ser Bahadur Roka Magar

Student ID: 2512525

Submitted to:

Lecturer's Name: Pat Ganza

University of Wales

Trinity Saint David, London

13 December 2025

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1. Introduction

The report addresses a big question in the UK health and social care system, namely, how adult social care is currently being funded. It attempts to demonstrate what is expected to occur when budgets start shrinking, why it is truly important to explore further this subject, and propose how to explore the impact of lower funding on services, employees and the individuals who require care soundly.

2. Problem Statement

The issue here is primarily that of the long-term financing of adult social care in England. It is placing the finance system under a heavy load and producing numerous poor results. Those in real need, such as older adults and disabled people, receive less assistance, the services become substandard, and their payments to bills may empty their wallets (The King's Fund, 2023). To employees in the social care sector, insufficient finances translate to low salaries, lack of job security, and insufficiency of workforce, and hence recruitment and retention are a nightmare. The NHS and local councils are not spared either: councils find it difficult to discharge patients when they cannot send them home to community care, and the NHS find it difficult to provide the necessary care as required by the law.

3. Justification

No one can refuse that there is a close association between social care and money problems. We must actually learn to be smart and develop solutions that are sustainable. It seems like the entire industry is constantly in a crisis, and there have been numerous green papers and slow reforms (The Health Foundation, 2024). It is not sufficient to say that there is a funding gap, but it is important to dissect it on how it burdens people and the day-to-day operations of services. The questions that we have to answer are: How do budget cuts influence the quality and safety of care? And what is the impact of low pay levels on the 3 in 10 workforce turnover? The absence of such a study can cause new changes, such as the Health and Social Care Levy, to be implemented without the realisation of how frail the system is and whether they would be able to make a fundamental change.

4. Sources of Information and Justification.

1. Source 1: The King's Fund (2023), Social Care Funding and the NHS.

Description and Relevance: The King's Fund is a leading team of experts whose policy in health and social care has been adopted by most of the people in the UK. In this paper, the author provides a comprehensive review of the money flows in social care, the funding deficit, and the impact that the strain on social care may have on the NHS.

Reason behind the Choice: I have selected this source as it is an expert on this subject and describes the intricate system of money in a straightforward manner that it offers dependable facts I should demonstrate the magnitude of the funding issue.

2. Source 2: Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) (2024). Spring Budget Survey.

Description and Relevance: The ADASS represents the body of social care directors in England. Their yearly survey provides up-to-date and real-time information on the edge, including the proportion of council funds allocated to care, the number of individuals on assessment waitlists, and the largest economic demands on local authorities.

Reasons behind the choice: This source provides concrete and up-to-date information directly at the operations of care service providers, which connects the problem with real-life facts and makes it feasible and working.

Task 2 Research Methodology

Research methods can be divided into two broad categories, which are quantitative and qualitative. Quantitative science is the one of gathering statistics and numbers and processing them to discover the trends and relationships. Surveys are used to collect data, which we can then apply to several people, such as how many or how much.

Qualitative research plunges into understanding the reasons why individuals think, feel or act in a particular manner. To derive the why and how, we collect words rather than numbers using chats or focus groups. It provides the detailed storeys and the real background (Dawson, 2019).

3.2 Selected Methodology and Rationale.

The research design to be employed in this study will be a mixed-method one. Social care funding is not only a game of numbers but also economics, personal lives and politics, hence we need a plan of action that would encompass all three. We can only demonstrate the correlation of local spending and care homes closure with the help of numbers only, but the lived experience, such as how a family makes ends meet with the costs of care, should be provided. Thus, this project will include both hard data analysis and in-depth interviews with the service users, with their family carers and with the care home managers. We will use both to point out the gap in funding with statistics and discuss its extensive human implications, which will provide a sound base for the policy recommendations.

Task 3: Data Collection

Primary and secondary data collection Overview.

The primary data collection occurs in fieldwork where key participants of the Kuwaiti tourism industry are interviewed to provide information about the industry in the country.

2.1 Background of Primary and Secondary Data Collection

The primary data collection will be conducted in the field, where key players will be interviewed to give information on the tourism industry in Kuwait.

Data collection merely involves information collection to answer a research question.

Primary data are gathered by the researcher themselves directly through new surveys, interviews, or observation and provide fresh and good data specific to a study; however, it may take time and cost a lot.

The secondary data is the available information gathered from different sources, such as government reports, academic journals, business data, or past surveys. It is less expensive and quicker, but might not be relevant to the exact question, and thus, you should confirm its validity and up-to-date nature.

4.2 Selected Data and Justification.

In order to ensure that the study is comprehensive and effective, primary and secondary data will be used in the study. To begin with, we will investigate secondary sources like the reports of the King's Fund, ADASS, and Nuffield Trust published in Task 1 and the official statistics of the UK government, which will provide a sound evidence-based foundation tracing the history and funding of the problem. Next, we will collect primary data to fill gaps. These will entail semi-structured interviews with recipients of care and their families as a way of listening to personal stories of how the reduction in funding has impacted them. The extended data would give the general picture, and the on-ground data would make our findings plausible and significant.

Conclusion

All in all, this report is a sound proposal to explore the colossal deficiency of funds in adult social care. The problem statement emphasised its effect on users, family, workers and the whole health system. The aim of the study highlighted the fact that real evidence was required to avert the crisis and allow a sustainable change. In our proposal, we will integrate both surveys and interviews to obtain both numbers and personal experiences of funding gaps. Through the old and new data, we are seeking to come up with the all rounded and convincing study to illustrate the urgency of a long term plan of funding to ensure that social care is fair, secure and sustainable for all.

References

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