

Adil Ali

Student ID number: 2540185

Module Code: LCHS4003

Module Title: Introduction to Health and Social Care

Lecturer: Dr Helen Parsons

Assignment Title: Written Assignment – Component 1

Word Count : approximately 1,500 words

Task 1: 750- word Guided Scenario Response

1.Introduction

This report addresses the growing shortage of domiciliary care services across Birmingham. Domiciliary care enables people to remain independent in their own homes rather than moving to residential care. Under the care Act 2014, local authorities have a duty to ensure sufficient care and support is available to meet the needs of their local population.

2.Impact on the Community

- Older people: this includes issues such as delayed hospital discharges; staying in hospital longer than needed.
- Families: this puts them under struggles such as unpaid family carers under more pressure and people having to give up work.
- Vulnerable groups: like people with disabilities or long-term conditions who are missing essential care.
- Cost to council: higher costs for emergency care or temporary residential placements.

Key point: Shortages mean people don't get care when they need it – affecting health, independence and wellbeing.

3. Recommended Response

Care act 2014

. Section 1 – Promoting Individual Wellbeing:

As we see under Section 1 of the Care Act 2014, local authorities have a general duty to promote an individual's wellbeing when making decisions about care and support. This means the council must put the person's needs, wishes and independence at the centre of everything they do. Improving domiciliary care services directly supports this duty – enabling

people to stay in their own homes, maintain their daily routines, and live with dignity rather than being forced into residential care because there isn't any home help available.

.Section 3- Shaping services to meet local needs:

Section 3 of the Care Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to shape their care and support markets so that it meets the needs of the local community. Birmingham City Council should work closely with local care providers, training providers and community organisations to create a sustainable domiciliary care workforce. This could include many different opportunities such as, funding new training scheme, improving pay and conditions, and creating clear career pathways – ensuring there are enough high quality services available to meet growing local demand.

.Section 5- Preventing, Reducing or Delaying Care Needs

Section 5 of the Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to provide services that prevent, reduce or delay people's future need for care and support. Good domiciliary care plays a huge part in this- helping people manage at home, stay healthy, and avoid hospital admission or early entry into residential care. By investing in domiciliary care now, the council can prevent needs from becoming more serious and costly to address later.

Now by applying these three section of the Care Act 2014, Birmingham City Council can take clear, legal steps to address the domiciliary care shortage, protect the wellbeing of local residents, and build a more sustainable care system for the future.

4. Conclusion

Overall, domiciliary care is incredibly important because It helps people stay in their own homes and saves the public money that would otherwise be spent on more expensive care. The shortages we are facing are a serious problem, but they can be fixed with the right planning and investment. Birmingham City Council has a duty under the Care Act 2014 to make sure these services are there for the people who need them. By taking action now, the council can support local residents as well as, protect people's wellbeing, and build a stronger care service for the future.

References:

- . Birmingham City Council (2025) Adult Social Care: Workforce and Capacity strategy. Birmingham: Birmingham City Council.
- . The Care Act 2014 (c.23). London: The Stationery Office. Available at: [legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk) (Accessed: 12 October 2026).
- . NHS Birmingham and Solihull ICB (2025) Delayed Discharges and Community Care. Birmingham: NHS Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board.

. Skills for care (2025) The state of the Adult Social Care Workforce in England. Leeds: Skills for Care.

Task 2: 750-word essay.

Chosen health care service: Ambulance Services: Origins, Modern Function and significance.

Introduction:

Ambulance services are an essential component of the United Kingdom's National Health Service (NHS), providing emergency medical care and rapid transport to people in urgent need. This essay explores the historical origins of the ambulance service, critically evaluates how it functions today, and discusses its vital role in enhancing the quality of life for service users.

Origins and Historical Context:

Before the late 19th century, there was no organised ambulance system in Britain. Injured or seriously ill people were typically carried by bystanders in carts or wagons, often with no medical care during transit. The first organised provision began in the 1870's, when railway companies and local police introduced basic horse-drawn ambulances at major stations and town centres. The Metropolitan Asylums Board established London's first dedicated ambulance service in 1885, using steam powered vehicles to transport patients with infectious diseases as well as accident victims.

A major development came during the First World War (1914-1918), when military ambulance corps demonstrated the life saving value of rapid transport and on-scene medical care. After the world war, local authorities began establishing civilian ambulance services, though provision remained scattered and inconsistent across different regions until the creation of the NHS in 1948. The NHS brought all local ambulance services under single national structure, making emergency care free at the point of use. Over upcoming decades, the service evolved from simply "transporting patients" to providing advanced pre-hospital emergency care, with increasingly highly trained crews and sophisticated medical equipment.

How the Service Functions Today:

Now Today, NHS Ambulance Services operate across eleven regional trusts in England, with separate services for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. They respond to 999 emergency calls, triage patients based on clinical need, and provide appropriate help-ranging from the telephone advice and community referrals to immediate response and emergency hospital admission. The workforce includes paramedics, emergency medical technicians, call handlers, and supporting staff. Many services now use advanced technology such as GPS tracking and computerised triage systems to deploy resources more efficiently.

However, the service faces some significant challenges. Increasing demand due to an ageing population and rising chronic illness rates places immense pressure on resources.

Staff shortages, high turnover, and long handover delays at hospitals- where ambulances are forced to wait hours to transfer patients into emergency departments- are widely reported issues. Response times have worsened in recent years, particularly for less urgent categories, raising concerns about patient safety and public confidence. Furthermore, while emergency response is well understood, the service's broader role- such as transporting patients to and from hospital appointments- is often under- resourced and undervalued. These difficulties do not mean the service is failing, but they highlight the gap between what the service is designed to deliver and what it can realistically achieve under the current pressures.

Significance and Impact on Quality of Life:

The ambulance service has an immediate and profound impact on people's lives. Most obviously, it saves lives: rapid response and early medical intervention are critical in conditions such as heart attack, stroke, and serious injury, where every minute can determine survival and recovery speed. Beyond life-or-death situations, the service does things such as providing reassurance and peace of mind to the whole community- knowing that help is just one call away this reduces anxiety and allows people to feel safer in their daily lives.

For people with long-term health conditions, the ambulance service offers a vital safety net. Knowing that support is available in an emergency improves independence and confidence, enabling individuals to participate more fully in family and community life. The service also acts as a gateway to the wider healthcare system, ensuring that people reach the right specialist care quickly and appropriately. In doing so, it prevents minor conditions from becoming serious complications and supports early discharge from hospitals by facilitating safe transport home.

While this support is essential, the quality can vary significantly depending on the circumstances. When response times are delayed or experiences are poor, public trust tends to decline, which can lead to vulnerable individuals hesitating to seek help when they need it the most. This hesitation often results in much worse health outcomes, making it clear that maintaining a reliable and responsive service is about more than just medical care it is a vital component of community wellbeing.

Conclusion:

The ambulance service has come a long way from those old-school horse-drawn wagons to becoming one of the most essential parts of life in the United Kingdom. But even though it's a major lifesaver it's facing some increasing hurdles right now, especially when it comes to staffing and keeping up with how much people actually need it. It is not just about mending operational hiccups, though; its about to make sure that people can actually receive the immediate and reliable care they depend on in a serious emergency. At the end of the day, supporting the service is about more than just logistics it is about protecting the health and well-being of every single individual in the country.