

Title Page

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Poster Title – Poster on Domiciliary Care Services

Contents

Title Page	0
<i>Poster – Domiciliary Care Services</i>	2
Essay.....	3
References	3

Poster – Domiciliary Care Services

Explain the service

"Domiciliary care is professional care and support provided in a person's own home to help with everyday living" [Elder 2026]. Domiciliary care services within the community encourage freedom and safety, domiciliary care services offer skilled individualized assistance right in the person's home. The people who might use the service are older adults, people with disabilities or those recovering from an illness or surgery. Services include companionship, practical assistance like cooking and cleaning, personal care like bathing, clothing and medicine. Person centred care is also really important for the service users as it allows them to choose exactly how they want things to happen and what. It's about respecting their choices, dignity and independence.

History of the service

Domiciliary care evolved from the 13th Century charitable aid for the sick into state supported service promoting independent living. "In 1968 Harold Wilson's labour Government passed the Health Services and Public Health Act which came into effect in 1971" [Homecare 2026]. The Conservative Government then put together 1989 white paper which is a plan of action for home care including funding, development of needs assessment and expansion of domiciliary day and respite care.

Challenges faced

One challenge is staffing shortage. "The need for more and more care workers as the demand continues to rise is crucial but with budgets limited often a lot of local authorities and care providers do not have enough care workers to meet their demand" [Access Group 2026]. Another challenge faced is operational and scheduling inefficiencies this is the logistical challenge of coordinating care for a mobile workforce leads to be missed, shortened or late visits especially during peak times or weekends. Two challenges faced by domiciliary care services are demand keeps increasing so does the pressure on care providers to arrange and deliver the care and support individuals require to delay future care needs helping to reduce discharge delays and allowing individuals to remain as independent in their own homes for as long as possible. Staffing shortages is another challenge faced by domiciliary care services as it can lead to increased workloads and burnout by caseworker's, due to staff shortages it may lead to funding constraints which limits the resources available for training and support. Domiciliary care services face challenges with recruiting and retaining qualified staff especially with competitive wages, limited funding impacts the ability to invest in training, technology, and better pay for care workers.

Function of the service

Current functioning of domiciliary care services are heavily regulated, person centred alternative to residential care designed to support individuals primarily the elderly or those with disabilities to live independently in their own homes. Services are highly flexible ranging from 30 minute visits for daily tasks to 24 hour live in care and are increasingly relying on digital technology for management, monitoring and medication administration.

"Many families choose professional home care service because they offer the right support allowing loved ones to remain safely in their own homes" [Consummate Care (UK) Ltd 2026]

Domiciliary Care covers a wide range of support tailored to individual needs such as personal care this is assistance with bathing, showering, dressing and toileting. Another service example is medication management this is reminders or administration of medication sometimes using digital systems like Electronic Medication Administration Records (Emar). Another example of a service provided is household tasks this includes cleaning laundry and gardening.

"No Author 2026"

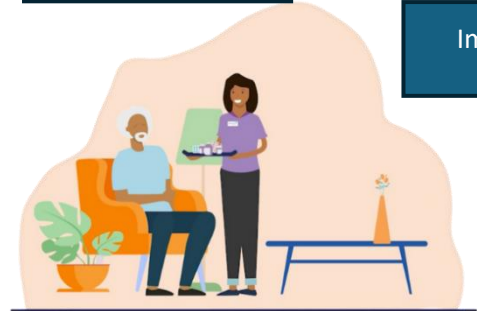


Image1

The four principles of Person-Centred Care



"No author 2025"

Image 2

Essay

Investigate the origins of the service

Community antenatal midwifery services have changed dramatically to match societal demands, shifts in healthcare practices and advances in medical understanding. In the past midwives were largely community based professionals who helped women in their local communities during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum phase. Prenatal care gradually moved into hospital settings in the early 20th century as healthcare systems started to formalise. These services were essential in helping pregnant women receive monitoring, education and assistance in the comfort of their own homes or nearby clinics. "Midwives delivered breech babies, twins, premature babies, and those with congenital abnormalities" [Staras 2022].

Historical context that shaped the development of community antenatal midwifery services

In the 20th Century midwives provided most antenatal care often in community settings. The focus was on supporting normal birth with minimal medical intervention. Births shifted from home to hospital settings. The National Health Service [NHS] began functioning in 1948 with the goal of providing 'free healthcare at the point of need'. A lot of midwives worked in the local communities as that is where a lot of babies were born. "A pregnant woman's healthcare experiences influence not only maternal and infant health outcomes, but also her pregnancy journey and individual self-esteem" [Greenlees 2024].

Critically evaluate how the service functions today -

"All women and newborns have a right to a quality of care that enables a positive childbirth experience that includes respect and dignity, a companion of choice, clear communication by maternity staff, pain relief strategies, mobility in labour and birth position of choice" [WHO 2026]. Antenatal midwifery services play a crucial role in improving maternal and infant health outcomes. Disparities in access to these services persist with some women facing barriers such as geographical isolation, financial constraints, or cultural differences. Effective integration of antenatal midwifery services within broader healthcare systems is essential for ensuring continuity of care and optimal outcomes. "The provision of personalised care, continuity of care and safe staffing are also essential for improving health outcomes" [Nuffield Trust 2026]. Collaboration between midwives, obstetricians and other healthcare professionals can facilitate seamless referrals, shared decision making and coordinated management of complex pregnancies. Ensuring the quality and safety of antenatal midwifery services is paramount, this requires ongoing training, adherence to evidence based guidelines and robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Midwifery care is generally considered safe, potential risks such as delayed recognition of complications or inadequate access to emergency care needs to be carefully addressed through protocols, referral pathways and quality improvement initiatives.

Discuss its significance in enhancing the quality of life of service users

"Midwives work in partnership with women enabling their views, preferences and decisions to be listened to and heard" [NMC 2025]. Its significance is to ensure that regular checkups are needed so the midwives can monitor and help identify potential issues early to reduce complications. Midwives provide reassurance, guidance and emotional support alleviating anxiety and stress, women that are being supported and provided a service to are empowered to make informed choices about care that is being provided to them promoting autonomy and confidence. "They work in collaboration with all key stakeholders in the provision of maternity care and engage proactively with service users, ensuring that feedback is responded to in a timely manner and that their views are sought when any significant changes to systems are proposed" [RCM 2016]. Midwives educate women on healthy lifestyle choices, breastfeeding and parenting and to promote overall wellbeing. Women feel more prepared and supported leading to more positive birth experiences, regular check ups enable early detection and management of potential issues.

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Consummate Care (UK) Ltd [2026] Function of Domiciliary Care Services [online] available from <https://consummatecare.org/blog/what-is-domiciliary-care-a-simple-guide-for-families/> accessed 19th February 2026

Images –

No Author **Image1** Nurse providing service to service user image

Personal care and assistance at home [2026] Available at <https://surecare.co.uk/birmingham/care-services/domiciliary-care/> accessed 19th February 2026

No Author **Image2** Person centred care image

The four principles of person centred care [2025] Available at <https://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/article/person-centred-care-meaning-implications/> accessed 20th February 2026

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