

## **This short note is to support local Members and MPs in their conversations around adult social care**

### **ASC is more than a little old lady**

- ASC is not a subject that people are familiar with in a way that they are with the NHS, it's not a 'thing' that most of us have experience of on a regular basis, nor does it have an obvious presence in our communities and neighbours.
- But look for it and you'll find ASC being delivered in partnership with the NHS, voluntary and community organisations and carers, to many people and families – and it won't always be that little old lady in a care home.
- We are increasingly supporting more young adults and seeing more children turn 18 who need our long-term ASC support.

### **ASC is an opportunity not a problem**

- The national narrative is that ASC is an expensive problem to be fixed, about older people in care homes receiving basic care from unskilled staff. This is so far from the reality.
- ASC is a spring-board to support people to live their best life despite the challenges that they might, ASC supports people's aspirations and dreams – into employment, training and education, to be able to remain living in your family home as you age, or to have a first home to call your own, a home that works for you.

### **A skilled workforce**

- We have such a dedicated and skilled workforce that do incredible things.
- We work with people on the things that matter to them. The approach is 'what matters to you?' not 'what's the matter with you?' It's about building relationships not getting through a task list
- But ASC is challenging, and it is becoming increasingly complex to support people with significant challenges, this has further increased during COVID, particularly in terms of the scale and range of mental health challenges, often coupled with other physical or learning disabilities and behavioural challenges.
- The workforce is under pressure and more frontline caring staff are needed and it's difficult to compete with other sectors like tourism and retail.
- This can be overcome, and we can all contribute to this by promoting and signposting to roles, opportunities and carers in care within our own communities and neighbourhood.
- Our key resource is [Home - Proud to Care \(proudtocaredevon.org.uk\)](https://proudtocaredevon.org.uk). Here you can find information and link to education, training and careers in care, a jobs board and all of our campaigns.