

## 'People First' in new proposal

The government has announced a series of proposals with the intention of helping those who receive social care.

Under the agreement, called Putting People First, £520 million has been promised to revamp the entire sector by the health secretary Alan Johnson.

Good-quality residential care homes will be rewarded financially as part of the scheme, while those that under perform will be struck off by the NHS and local councils.

"Our commitment that the majority of social care funding will be controlled by individuals, though personal budgets represents a radical transfer of power from the state to the public," Mr Johnson claimed.

And officials, such as chief secretary to the Treasury Andy Burnham, argued that the measures will give the elderly more control in terms of payments with funded budgets, something ought to give them a greater degree of independence.

Locals in Suffolk may have to pay more for care services if the Conservative county council goes ahead with plans to save £7.7 million on the community services budget, Labour councillor Bryony Rudkin claimed recently.

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