

**Lessons learnt from the pandemic in the LTC
sector and reforms that are being considered to
address the challenges**

England

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Nina Hemmings (Researcher, Nuffield Trust, London)

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Team members: Adelina Comas-Herrera (PI), Natasha Curry (co-lead), David Behan, Erica Breuer, William Byrd, Margaret Dangoor, Nigel Edwards, Stefanie Ettelt, Jose-Luis Fernandez, Nina Hemmings, Martin Knapp, Margrieta Langins, Shoshana Lauter, Klara Lorenz-Dant, Camille Oung, Maximilian Salcher-Konrad, Sian Smith and Jessica J. Yu, in collaboration with the National Care Forum.

OVERVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE LONG TERM CARE SYSTEM

People drawing on social care



- Care home residents
 - 20,000 deaths, March-June 2020 (40% of all covid-related deaths)
 - A further 16,355 deaths between Oct-Feb 2021 (26% of all covid-related deaths) (Scobie 2021)
 - Deterioration; visiting rights
- Homecare (evidence gap?)
- People with a learning disability: over 2,600 covid-related deaths (Hatton 2021)
- Ethnic inequalities: proportion of deaths higher among Black people (49%) compared to White people (41%) (CQC 2020)
- Inappropriate DNACPRs

Formal workforce



- 922 deaths by May 2021
- Burnout and sickness absence (doubled to 9.5% by Spring 2021)
- 105,000 vacancies (Skills for Care 2021)
- At least 42,000 fewer staff between April-Oct 2021 (Nuffield Trust 2021)

Unpaid carers



- Estimated 4.5 million carers during pandemic (DHSC 2020)
- 1 in 4 cannot cover monthly expenses (Carers UK 2021)
- Free PPE not accessible until Feb 2021

Care providers



- Occupancy rates dropped by 12-13% in non-specialist care homes compared to 2019 average (Langbuisson 2020, CQC 2021)
- Over half of local authorities reported providers closing/handing back contracts in Spring 2021 (ADASS 2021)

LESSONS THAT NEED TO BE LEARNT IN THE LONG TERM CARE SYSTEM

Social care situation pre-Covid:

- Chronic under-funding
- Workforce shortages
- Access to care
- Overreliance on unpaid carers
- Provider fragility
- Market shaping/commissioning weaknesses
- Pockets of innovation but not scaled & spread

Themes highlighted in our research:

The system: accountability, visibility, preparedness, integration

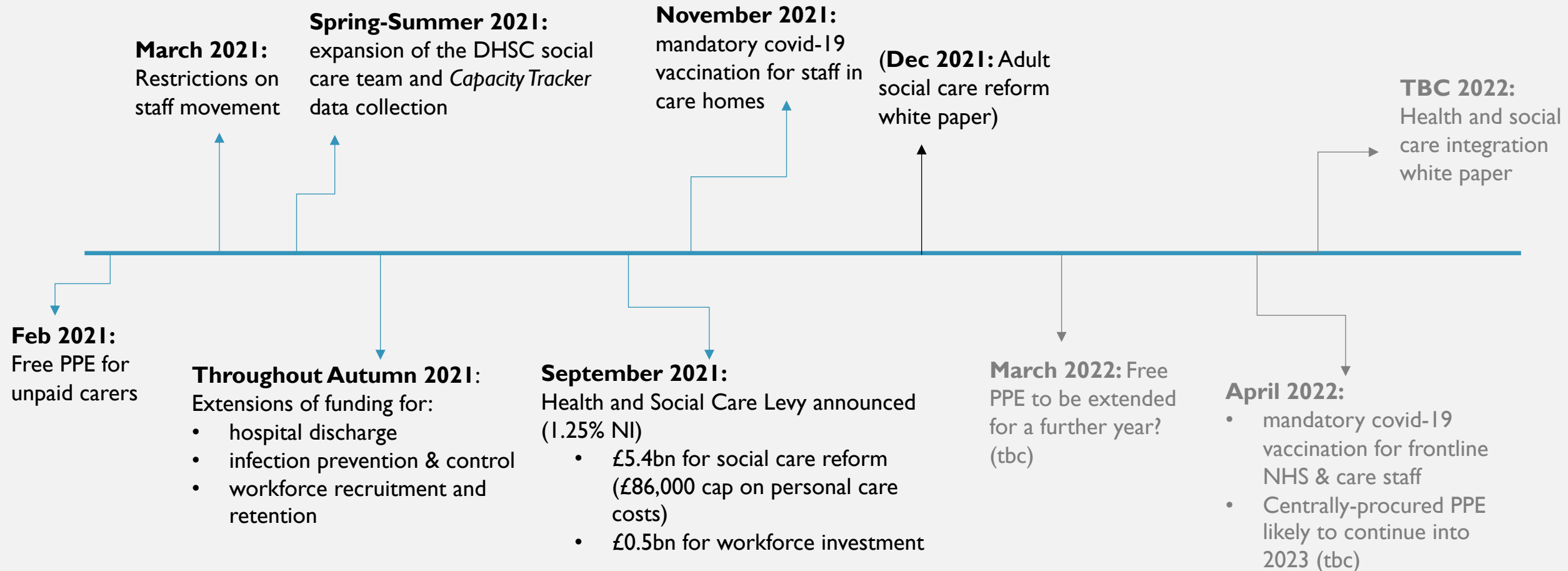
People: complexity, formal workforce, unpaid carers

Resources: data, funding, estates, local integration

Some positive learning to date:

- Some improved collaboration between DHSC and social care partners (eg. consultation on vaccination rollout in homecare)
- Local integration (eg. integrated staffing models)
- Funding to support workers to self-isolate at full wage
- Improvements in data collection

KEY REFORMS AND POLICY MEASURES



PLEASE EMAIL US ANY THOUGHTS:

Contacts:

nina.hemmings@nuffieldtrust.org.uk

LTCcovid.org